

# STARS AND STRIPES.®

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Free to Deployed Areas

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## 'A breakdown in ethical behavior'

Spokesman: Hagel worried servicemembers' misdeeds 'stain the honor' of military

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel is concerned that a series of ethical lapses by servicemembers might be indicators of a systemic problem within the U.S. military, Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters at the Defense

Department on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Navy leaders announced that staff members at the Navy's nuclear propulsion school in Charleston, S.C., are suspected of cheating on a written qualification exam for instructors who teach sailors how to operate nuclear reactors. Last month, the Air Force was rocked by revelations that nuclear launch officers were in-

involved in a cheating scandal and an illegal narcotics scandal.

Kirby said Hagel is "deeply troubled" by those incidents. A 60-day review of the U.S. nuclear enterprise is underway, and service leaders are expected to develop an action plan to deal with personnel, management and cultural problems within the force.

In the news conference,

Kirby pointed out that the military is still tackling the issue of sexual assault within the ranks, which has received a lot of attention from lawmakers alarmed by statistics released by the Pentagon indicating that thousands of servicemembers are sexually assaulted by their comrades each year.

**SEE ETHICS ON PAGE 2**



## Left in the cold

Storm knocks out power to more than 1 million | Page 9

A woman inspects a downed tree that took out a utility line and landed atop a minivan after a winter storm on Wednesday in Philadelphia. The Northeast's second storm of the week dumped more than a foot of snow in some states.

MATT ROUBICE/AP

## Boehner: Link debt ceiling extension, COLA cuts

By ROBERT COSTA  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — House Speaker John Boehner scrambled Wednesday to sell raising the debt ceiling to his Republican colleagues, urging them to demand a restoration of recently cut military benefits in exchange for a one-year

extension of the federal government's borrowing authority.

Though Boehner, R-Ohio, did not formally endorse the idea as his own, he did ask his lieutenants to test it among rank-and-file Republicans.

Boehner's inner circle said he is trying to find a solution that can pass the House without ruptur-

ing the fractious Republican conference, in which disagreement over past debt-limit strategies has caused considerable turmoil. He also wants to avoid a fight with the White House, which has long resisted GOP attempts to extract major concessions on the debt ceiling.

**SEE BOEHNER ON PAGE 3**



Boehner

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I think it's meant to be off-putting. It's a schlumpy guy in underpants in an all-women environment."

— Sarah Wall-Randell, an English professor at Wellesley College, on a lifelike sculpture of a nearly nude sleepwalking man placed at a busy area of campus at the Massachusetts school

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## MILITARY



AP

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is ordering military leaders to put a renewed emphasis on moral behavior across the force following a series of ethical lapses that have included cheating scandals among the Navy and Air Force's nuclear missions.

## Ethics: Hagel is concerned over damage to military's image

### FROM FRONT PAGE

Examples of bad behavior among general officers prompted Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to conduct an ethics review of the senior officer corps in 2012.

"If you just take a look at recent incidents — and I'm not just talking about in the last few weeks, last few months, even the last couple of years — I think he's generally concerned that there could be at least at some level a breakdown in ethical behavior and in the demonstration of moral courage," Kirby said.

Kirby defined moral courage as "doing the right thing when nobody is looking [and] treating people the right way, even when they can't do anything for you." Hagel believes that malfeasance within the military is getting worse.

"He definitely sees this as a growing problem," Kirby said. "And he's concerned about the

depth of it. I don't think he could stand here and tell you that ... anybody has the full grasp here."

"And that's what worries the secretary is that maybe we don't — maybe he doesn't have the full grasp of the depth of the issue, and he wants to better understand it," Kirby said.

Dempsey told the Wall Street Journal last week that the military will focus more on ethics training going forward, and he suggested that an officer's character should be given more emphasis in the promotion system.

One military ethicist said the problems are complex.

"There is a long tradition in the Navy — when I was at the Academy — of circulating good test preparation; so good, in fact, that sometimes it was the real answers," said Nancy Sherman, a philosophy professor at Georgetown University in Washington who was the inaugural Distinguished Chair in Ethics at the Naval Academy in the mid-1990s

when there was a big cheating scandal.

"The pressures that people feel who wear the uniform, who have an idealized view of what it means to wear the uniform, can sometimes cause them to put undue pressure on themselves," she said. "In battle, especially, many unduly blame themselves for enemy action or accidents that take their buddies' lives. That same solidarity means that they sometimes pledge unconditional fidelity to each other, and that means they will sometimes act in ways that can be seen as unethical."

Sherman is skeptical on the usefulness of any review.

"Will a review do anything? No," she said. "Not if it's a 15-minute classroom review of codes of conduct. Small groups, with real, candid discussion to find out the motivations of people who cheat, that might work."

The U.S. military is the most respected public institution in the

United States, according to numerous surveys taken since 9/11. Hagel fears that high-profile scandals could damage the image of the Armed Forces among the American people.

"He's mindful that the vast majority serve very honorably every day, but it doesn't take more than a few to stain the honor and the integrity of the entire force," Kirby said. "And I think that's what we're starting to see now. He's concerned about the health of the force and the health of the strong culture of accountability and responsibility that Americans have come to expect from their military."

Kirby said putting more focus on ethics will be a high priority for Hagel and DOD leaders going forward, although he did not announce any new initiatives in this regard.

Stars and Stripes editor Patrick Dickson contributed to this report. harper.jon@stripes.com Twitter: @JHarperStripes



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## MILITARY

# Groups urge boost in spending for veterans

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

The federal government will fall well short of meeting veterans' health care and benefits needs in the coming years, several leading veterans' service organizations said this week, and tens of billions of dollars in additional spending will be needed to adequately address the issue.

The 28th annual "Independent Budget" — recommendations "by veterans for veterans" for funding and policy changes for fiscal 2015 and beyond — was released Tuesday by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Disabled American Veterans and American Veterans. The report calls for \$72.9 billion in additional health, benefits, claim processing and infrastructure spending for the fiscal 2015 budget, which sets aside money in advance for future fiscal years.

The Department of Veterans Affairs receives funding for health care in advance to help plan and manage care. Advance appropriations can be revised before the start of the fiscal year in question, although that doesn't always happen.

The groups called on Congress to add the rest of the VA funding to the advance appropriations process.

"The VA health-care system has been shielded from the severe negative consequences of political gridlock that ultimately led to a partial government shutdown last fall," said Bill Lawson, national president of Paralyzed Veterans of America, in a statement.

"It is time that the rest of the VA is afforded the same protection."

The authors of the plan say one of the greatest concerns is the severely underfunded VA construction account, which upgrades rapidly aging facilities, making

them safe for the millions of sick, wounded and injured veterans of all generations. From fiscal 2002 through fiscal 2014, the group's annual budget proposals have recommended a total of \$23.5 billion for VA construction. However, less than \$13.5 billion has been appropriated by the federal government during that period.

"World-class health care requires first-class facilities, but through 13 years of war, VA construction accounts have only received 57 percent of what's required, and we project VA will need to invest \$31 billion over the next decade to close its major and minor construction gaps," VFW National Commander William Thien said in the statement. The Independent Budget recommendations for revisions in actual spending for fiscal 2015 include:

■ \$2.3 billion more for health care for fiscal 2015 than the \$58.8 billion the administration

recommended in advance.

■ \$2.7 billion more than the \$3.9 billion appropriated for all construction programs in fiscal 2015.

■ \$25 million more than the \$611 million appropriated for medical and prosthetics research in fiscal 2015.

The budget recommendations also include \$62.4 billion in advance appropriation for health care for fiscal year 2016.

The budget's authors expressed concern with the level of investment in the VA's information technology infrastructure and the government breakdown in the appropriations process.

Once considered a sacred cow, spending for veterans has been a flashpoint in recent months as federal deficits from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and skyrocketing benefit costs have compelled lawmakers to consider the issue.

A bipartisan budget deal in De-

cember cut military pensions, causing an uproar that led lawmakers to reconsider; however, they indicated the current rate of growth for military pay and benefits is unsustainable.

Last month, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., introduced sweeping veterans legislation covering changes to the GI Bill, survivor benefits, advanced appropriations for the VA and fertility treatments for wounded veterans. The response was largely positive and was backed by 20 veterans' service organizations, including Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and Disabled American Veterans.

For more information, visit [www.independentbudget.org](http://www.independentbudget.org).

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## Boehner: Speaker's effort a departure from past standoffs on debt ceiling

### FROM FRONT PAGE

"Right now, Jesus, himself, couldn't be the speaker and get 218 Republicans behind something, so I think Speaker Boehner is trying his best to come up with a plan that can get close to that," said Rep. Patrick Tiberi, R-Ohio, a longtime Boehner ally. "Whatever we move, there will be critics everywhere, but at the end of the day, we still have to govern."

The cuts to the cost-of-living allowance are set to go into effect in January 2016, and would cap benefit increases at 1 percent below inflation for military retirees younger than 62. Critics have said the cuts will cost a typical enlisted member who retires at 40 about \$83,000 over 20 years, and will cost a typical retired officer more than \$124,000 over 20 years.

This week, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said the government will run short of cash to pay its bills by the end of the month unless Congress grants additional credit authority.

Outside the House chamber Wednesday night, the plan was gaining momentum, with dozens of GOP members saying they could back it. The benefits for retired military personnel were reduced in last year's bipartisan budget agreement, which cut \$6 billion in payments to veterans during the next 10 years.

"I'd support it in a heartbeat," said Rep. Doug Lamborn, R-Colo. "We need to figure this thing out, and that's a way to do it." According to two people present, Boehner argued that the military-benefits maneuver could force some Democrats to join Republicans and also could win support from conservatives, who have voiced frustration with the reductions in payouts for retired military personnel.

Boehner's approach — moving toward a possible tweak to fed-



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, walks to a strategy meeting Tuesday with fellow Republicans before speaking to reporters on Capitol Hill in Washington.

eral pension funding — signals a departure from past debt-ceiling standoffs, in which Republicans frequently have demanded sweeping conservative measures in exchange for extensions. It also underscores Boehner's desire to avoid a partisan standoff with the White House ahead of the mid-term elections.

In recent years, debt-ceiling debates have been a chance for House Republicans to try to lever-

age concessions from the White House and Senate Democrats in the ongoing battle of spending and deficit control. But after October's government shutdown, many in the House say they have little appetite for another stand-off. Some members say they just want to get it behind them.

Even tea party favorites are giving Boehner room to pursue options considered less than optimal by House conservatives.

"There is a pragmatism here," said Rep. Michele Bachmann, R-Minn. "You've got to know when to hold them and when to fold them. My assessment is that most of us don't think it's the time to fight."

Several Democratic aides, who requested anonymity in order to discuss internal matters, said House Democratic leaders probably will balk if Boehner moves ahead with the plan because

Democrats have insisted that they will not negotiate over the debt ceiling. But they did not rule out the possibility of some Democrats supporting such legislation amid the clamor in both parties to restore the cuts.

This week, aides to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said the Senate soon will bring forward its own legislation to restore the veterans' benefit cuts, taking up a spending bill authored by Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee. House Republican aides said Reid's overlap with Boehner's potential plan is helpful, especially as Republican leaders look for a debt-limit demand that could win Democratic votes.

But the House GOP's path is far from settled, in spite of Wednesday's turn toward a new proposal. On Monday, House Republicans, in informal whip counts taken by the leadership, rejected the two previous options for the debt-limit discussions. Those measures had mixed support, and the new military-benefits pitch will face similar challenges, with the House's conservative bloc uneasy with any legislation that extends the borrowing limit.

One key concern raised late Wednesday by House Republicans: making sure a restoration of benefits is balanced by cuts to other federal programs, in order to not have the measure be cast as a spending increase by watchdog conservative groups that are closely watching Boehner's play book. There also have been grumbles about whether a change to the budget deal would violate the carefully crafted terms hashed out in December by Congress' budget chairs, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash.

Stars and Stripes contributed to this report.

## MILITARY



GUSTAVO BAHENA/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Stryker vehicles of the 3-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 7th Infantry Division, are lined up Jan. 15 prior to training at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

## Units learn to face enemy, faltering vehicles

BY ADAM ASHTON

The (Tacoma, Wash.) News Tribune

FORT IRWIN, Calif. — Lt. Tyler Tessman awoke in the desert one day this week with two problems.

He had to rethink a tough training mission that stacked the odds against his Stryker platoon.

And he had to consider the possibility that his team might be grounded before he could even start on the battle plan.

Three of the four Stryker vehicles in his platoon from Joint Base Lewis-McChord were immobilized — one from too many burst tires, one from a broken axle and one from an assortment of safety issues that made it undrivable.

His predicament is familiar to Stryker soldiers since they returned to their base south of Tacoma from Afghanistan a year ago. They're working the kinks out of aging vehicles while preparing for a new kind of mission, one that will call on the eight-wheeled Strykers to face formidable armies instead of the elusive insurgencies of the past dozen years of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The training has unfolded this month as the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division goes through exercises at the National Training Center in the Mojave Desert. Keeping their Stryker machines in the field is no small challenge when they're driving over jagged rocks and rough terrain.

"We popped a tire. No kidding. You're driving over volcanic rock.

You're going to pop a tire," said Maj. Adam Latham, the executive officer for the brigade's 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment.

The 3rd Brigade, the Army's original Stryker brigade, has some of the oldest Strykers in the military. The brigade took the vehicles to Iraq three times, but left them at home for its last deployment to Afghanistan in 2011-12.

During that Afghanistan mission, the brigade's 300-some Strykers sat in outdoor motor pools for extended periods of time. Some gathered water in the rain.

They didn't get a full-on outdoors test until October, when the brigade visited the Yakima Training Center to gear up for this month's exercise in Southern California. Yakima revealed the maintenance flaws many of the brigade's Strykers built up in their year of little use.

At one point in Yakima, fewer than half of the Strykers in the cavalry squadron were considered ready for combat, said squadron chief mechanic Chief Warrant Officer 2 Ric Minton, 31, of Olympia.

He and his team "didn't sleep for three days" to get the squadron's readiness rate back up to 90 percent, he said.

Spending constraints further crimped the brigade as it prepared for its Yakima exercise during the October government shutdown. The unit could not buy essential replacement parts until the spending restrictions were lifted.

"When we got the parts, our operational readiness levels came

up to standard," said Maj. Dennis Fajardo, the brigade's logistics officer.

Minton said the Strykers were in good shape when they hit the ground at Fort Irwin in early January. The Army sent the machines by train from Lewis-McChord to the desert base. About 10 of the cavalry squadron's 69 Strykers were down for repairs early this week.

"These trucks have been ripped apart and put back together four times" in the past year, with each "rip" representing a maintenance overhaul, Minton said.

This month, the Lewis-McChord soldiers are doing an exercise that simulates how they would operate if they were called upon to restore a border of an American ally that lost territory to a well-armed neighbor.

The soldiers do not have the forward bases they used as logistical hubs in Iraq and Afghanistan, where well-stocked mechanics could get vehicles moving again. They're sleeping in Strykers, and their only replacement parts are the ones they brought with them.

As a result, soldiers are learning "to appreciate the maintenance and sustainment of equipment," brigade Commander Col. Dave Bair said.

"What do you do when equipment like this breaks and you're in contact with the enemy and you have 30 kilometers to go?" he said.

Out in the field, Tessman's platoon had one Stryker that was

# 'Fighting the Strykers'



DAVID ALBANO/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

The 3rd Brigade took Stryker vehicles to Iraq three times, but left them at home during a deployment to Afghanistan in 2011-12.

completely nonoperational. The platoon towed it from site to site.

Another vehicle lost three tires on a training mission this week. One more broke its axle on a late-night mountaintop mission and had to limp home.

"It seems like we're fighting the Strykers and then fighting the enemy," one of his soldiers said as they discussed the damage and the time they spent repairing vehicles.

Tessman got out in the field the next day in part by taking tires from the completely immobilized Stryker and reusing them on the machine that notched the three blowouts. His platoon borrowed a Stryker from another unit to round out an operational team for that day.

It made for hard work first thing in the morning. Each tire weighs more than 200 pounds.

Latham, the cavalry execu-

tive officer, said 96 percent of the squadron's vehicles were ready for combat before Tessman's mission. Losing a couple of Strykers brought down that number, but learning how to fix them with limited resources was an important lesson, he said.

"This is a full-contact sport, and it's a full-contact sport for the vehicles, too," he said.

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## MILITARY

# UK officials back off push for scrutiny of US

By ADAM L. MATHIS

Stars and Stripes

LONDON – British legislators seeking greater oversight of U.S. bases in England withdrew on Wednesday their amendments to the Defence Reform Bill in the face of government opposition.

The amendments' supporters said they might press the issue again when the bill enters the review stage in the House of Lords, but seemed satisfied that the initial debate drew attention to the issues of U.S. drone operations and intelligence-gathering.

The amendments would have created scrutiny groups to oversee visiting forces in the United Kingdom. The groups would report to Parliament about various issues, including those regarding possible restrictions on foreign forces in the U.K.

The amendments also would have required the interception of communications commissioner to make reports about visiting forces' use of U.K. premises and property.

Though Lord Robin Hodgson, the mover of the amendments, withdrew the proposals after the government expressed its opposition, he said he was not satisfied by their arguments. He said the government had failed to address the country's possible collaboration in U.S. drone strikes conducted in anticipated self-defense.

"We have not addressed the question of anticipatory self-defense and whether we are providing means of collaboration with our allies, whoever they may be and who believe that anticipatory self-defense is OK, in things that would be unlawful under U.K. law," Hodgson said in the Grand Committee meeting.

Supporters of the amendments also expressed concern about U.S. intelligence operations in the U.K. Baroness Susan Miller of Chilthorne Domer cited a 2004 committee that called for an investigation into RAF Menwith Hill, a National Security Agency base, but no inquiry was conducted.

"Here is a long history of Parliament being left in ignorance on this issue," Miller said. "I do not know the reason for that. Was it because secretaries of state did not know what was going on there or chose not to let Parliament know?"

The amendments were opposed by the Parliamentary Under-Sec-

retary of State for the Ministry of Defence, who described them as "onerous and unnecessary." Visiting forces, he said, are not beyond the reach of U.K. law.

Addressing Menwith Hill specifically, he said operations at the base are conducted with "the knowledge and consent" of the government.

"Oversight and accountability of RAF Menwith Hill must continue to remain the responsibility of the Intelligence and Security Committee, and the formation of a separate scrutiny group is not required," said Lord John Astor, of Hever.

Astor denied that U.S. bases in the country were operating

drones.

"The U.S. Air Force does not operate remotely piloted aircraft systems from the United Kingdom, and neither does the U.K. provide remotely piloted aircraft systems support to bases of the United States' visiting forces," he said.

Baroness Vivien Stern, another

backer of the amendments, said after the committee meeting that legislative moves like these were "to get more publicity inside Parliament and outside" about the issues.

The bill is still in the committee stage and will be considered again on Tuesday.

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ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

Concerns about American intelligence-gathering at RAF Menwith Hill, England, prompted lawmakers to call for more oversight of visiting forces.

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## PACIFIC

# North's nukes frame strategy of US, S. Korea drills

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
AND YO KYONG CHANG  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. and South Korea will employ a new "tailored deterrence" strategy that targets the North Korean nuclear threat during annual military drills this spring, according to South Korean defense officials.

A spokesman for the South Korean Defense Ministry on Thursday described the new strategy as responding more "concretely" to nuclear threats and weapons of mass destruction.

The bilateral strategy, agreed to by the U.S. and South Korea last fall, is still in the conceptual stage and will be refined during the spring exercises, which will include rehearsals of nuclear crisis scenarios, a second ministry official said, speaking on customary condition of anonymity.

The U.S. and South Korea have yet to announce the dates for the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle exercises, which could begin as soon as late February and typically run through March and April. Tensions on the peninsula are already mounting as the drills approach.

North Korean officials on Thursday accused the U.S. of deploying B-52 bombers to conduct nuclear strike practices aimed at the North, Reuters news agency reported. U.S. Forces Korea did not immediately comment on the allegation.

Just a day after the two Koreas agreed to hold reunions of family separated by the Korean War, Pyongyang threatened to scrap those if South Korea proceeds with the exercises, according to media reports.

"Dialogue and exercises of war of aggression cannot go hand in hand," Pyongyang's National Defense Commission said in a statement aired on the radio, according to Yonhap News.

During an October news conference in Seoul, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel described the new strategy as a deterrent "against the threat of North Korean nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction."

"This will create a strategic policy-level framework within the alliance for deterring these specific threats and help us work together more seamlessly to maximize the effects of our deterrence," he said, according to a transcript.

Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin said at the time that agreement on the strategy would "greatly enhance ... our citizens' trust toward U.S. commitment to provide extended defense."

## North Korea about-face on reunions

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea threatened Thursday to cancel reunions of Korean War-divided families because of upcoming U.S.-South Korean military drills and accused the United States of raising tensions by flying nuclear-capable B-52 bombers near the Korean Peninsula.

The apparent about-face a day after the rival Koreas agreed on dates for the emotional meetings fits a pattern analysts describe of North Korea agreeing to things South Korea covets and then pulling back until it gets what it wants — in this case a ratcheting down of massive military drills by Seoul and Washington that are seen as a huge drain on the impoverished North's military.

The rival Koreas decided Wednesday to resume the family reunions, which haven't been held since 2010, on Feb. 20-25.

On Thursday, the North's powerful National Defense Commission warned that the reunions may not happen if South Korea goes ahead with the drills.

It said U.S. B-52 bombers conducted nuclear strike drills targeting the North on Wednesday. The U.S. Pacific Command wouldn't confirm the claim but said it has maintained a strategic bomber presence in the region for years.

Despite the North's threat, South Korea said the drills will go ahead as scheduled.

The Associated Press

The Defense Ministry said Thursday that to monitor for nuclear or missile activity in the North, Seoul hopes to purchase five satellites by early 2020, though the purchase must be approved by the National Assembly. The U.S. and South Korea also plan to enact an early warning system that increases oversight of the North's nuclear activities, a ministry spokesman said.

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JOSHUA HAMMOND/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

In this composite panoramic image made from three digital photographs, the amphibious transport dock ship USS Denver, which will be decommissioned later this year, conducts an underway replenishment.

## USS Denver to be replaced in '15

By ERIK SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The USS Denver, the Navy's second-oldest active ship, will be decommissioned later this year and eventually replaced by the USS Green Bay at Sasebo Naval Base in Japan, officials announced Thursday.

Two Sasebo-based mine countermeasures ships will also be swapped with upgraded replacements as part of the Navy's ongoing work to bring much of its most advanced equipment to the Asia-Pacific region.

The USS Denver, an amphibious transport dock ship, will depart Sasebo for Pearl Harbor this summer, when it will end its active service. The USS Green Bay, a San-Antonio class amphibious ship commissioned in 2009, will arrive at Sasebo in February 2015, according to a Navy statement.

The Green Bay's upgrades

over the Denver include its command-and-control suite, as well as increased lift and carrying capability via landing craft and the Marine Corps' Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, Navy officials said.

Prior to the Green Bay's arrival, the USS Peleliu will support 7th Fleet operations in the Pacific.

The Austin-class USS Denver, the third ship to bear its name, had its keel laid in Seattle in 1964. Only the wood-hulled USS Constitution first launched in 1797, is older among active ships.

Meanwhile, the Avenger-class minehunters the USS Pioneer and the USS Chief are scheduled to arrive at Sasebo in May. They will replace the USS Avenger and the USS Defender, which were the first two ships of their class. The departing ships will be heavy-lifted to San Diego and decommissioned.

The ship changes will not affect base facilities or necessitate major relocations of sailors, officials

said.

The changes come less than a month after the Navy announced that the USS Ronald Reagan, one of the fleet's newest aircraft carriers, would replace the USS George Washington at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, in summer 2015.

Prior to that, the Navy swapped out the amphibious assault ship USS Essex and replaced it with the newer USS Bonhomme Richard. Several aging aircraft operating in the Western Pacific have also been upgraded with newer models.

Both the Obama administration and the Pentagon view the Asia-Pacific region as their highest long-term security priority. In recent years, threats from North Korea and maritime conflicts between China and multiple U.S. allies over ownership of islands in western Pacific waters have led to increased tensions in the region.

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## MILITARY

# NATO confirms military dog missing in Afghanistan

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

A NATO spokesman confirmed Thursday that a military working dog went missing in Afghanistan in December, lending some credence to a Taliban claim that it had captured a NATO dog and weapons just before Christmas.

"We can confirm that a military working dog went missing following an ISAF mission in December, 2013," Army Lt. Col. Will Griffin wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes. "It is ISAF policy to defer identification to the appropriate national authorities."

A purported Taliban video that surfaced this week features five bearded men and one very nervous-looking dog outfitted with a fancy harness similar to those

worn by canines that accompany U.S. Special Forces.

Griffin said he cannot confirm the video's authenticity.

It's impossible to tell from the tape whether the scared animal is an actual military working dog or just made up to look like one, though the video goes on to provide more evidence to back the Taliban's claims.

The video's star, a man in a shalwar khamaz, shows off what looks to be a broken U.S. military assault rifle, possibly an M4 or M14, and a tricked-out M4 with some high-tech sights and other gear, all of which point to — but do not prove — U.S. origins.

He also pulls out some grenades that look like the standard M67 models carried by American ground pounders.

Interestingly, both of the assault rifles look to be fitted with suppressors, devices that reduce the noise and flash of firing. Those devices aren't common among conventional forces, but are used by some American Special Forces and snipers.

According to the Taliban, they captured the dog and weapons when NATO forces attacked their compound in Alingar district in late December 2013.

A Dec. 23 news release from the Taliban said that they had captured weapons, but there was no mention of a dog until an updated version of the release was posted with the video.

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A NATO spokesman confirmed Thursday that a military working dog went missing in Afghanistan in December, lending some credence to this purported Taliban video that surfaced this week. It features five bearded men and a dog outfitted with a harness similar to those worn by canines that accompany U.S. Special Forces soldiers.

## Air Force sets date for early retirement board meeting

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force will convene an Enhanced Selective Early Retirement Board on June 16 to consider early retirement for eligible officers, according to the Air Force Personnel Center.

The ESERB is a new authority granted to the Air Force in the Fiscal Year 2013 National Defense Authorization Act to enable the service to meet force reduction and manpower goals.

The ESERB applies to:

- Active-duty colonels who meet the following criteria: are a line officer, biomedical sciences corps, or medical services corps personnel, who served at least two years of active duty in grade as of June 16, whose designated Competitive Category and Air Force Specialty Code meet eligibility requirements (All 11X, All 12X, 13B, 13C, 13M, 13N, 13S, 14N, 15W, 17D, 21M, 21R, 31P, 32E, 38P, and 71S; all AFSCs of the biomedical sciences corps; and all AFSCs of the medical services corps); whose names aren't on a promotion list; who haven't been approved for voluntary retirement; who are not to be involuntarily retired under any provision of law during FY14 or FY15; who were not previously considered in the 2010, 2012 or 2013 Selective Early Retirement Boards.

- Active-duty lieutenant colonels who are retirement eligible biomedical sciences corps personnel who have been once non-selected for promotion to the next higher grade.

- Active-duty majors who are retirement-eligible line of the

Air Force, nurse corps, biomedical sciences corps, and medical services corps personnel.

The ESERB will affect 956 colonels, 11 lieutenant colonels, and 1,019 majors, according to the Air Force.

The ESERB only applies to the active-duty force, not the Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve.

Eligible colonels who don't want to meet the ESERB can apply for voluntary retirement until Feb. 25.

They can also use other force management programs to enable them to retire with an effective date no later than Jan. 1, 2015.

However, eligible officers who use other programs to retire voluntarily could be required to repay the Air Force for benefits received, such as their transferred Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits. Officers selected for retirement by the ESERB won't have to repay those benefits, according to the Air Force.

If they're voluntary retirement request is approved by March 18, eligible colonels won't have to meet the ESERB, according to an Air Force memo.

Lieutenant colonels and majors who apply for voluntary retirement after May 16 will remain ESERB eligible and will still have to meet the board.

Eligible lieutenant colonels and majors whose retirement dates are approved before June 14 won't meet the ESERB, according to an Air Force news release.

The ESERB will be held at Joint Base-Randolph in San Antonio.

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## NATION

# Keeping a close watch on eyes in the sky

By CRAIG TIMBERG  
The Washington Post

**S**hooter and victim were just a pair of pixels, dark specks on a gray streetscape. Hair color, bullet wounds, even the weapon were not visible in the series of pictures taken from an airplane flying two miles above.

But what the images revealed — to a degree impossible just a few years ago — was location, mapped over time. Second by second, they showed a gang assembling, blocking off access points, sending the shooter to meet his target and taking flight after the body hit the pavement. When the report reached police, it included a picture of the blue stucco building into which the killer ultimately retreated, at last beyond the view of the powerful camera overhead.

"I've witnessed 34 of these," said Ross McNutt, the president of Persistent Surveillance Systems, which collected the images of the killing in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, from a specially outfitted Cessna. "It's like opening up a murder mystery in the middle, and you need to figure out what happened before and after."

As Americans have grown increasingly comfortable with traditionally surveillance cameras, a new, far more powerful generation is being quietly deployed that can track every vehicle and person across an area the size of a small city, for several hours at a time. Though these cameras can't read license plates or see faces, they provide such a wealth of data that police, businesses, even private individuals can use them to help identify people and track their movements.

Already, the cameras have been flown above major public events, such as the Ohio political rally where Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., named Sarah Palin as his running mate in 2008, McNutt said. They've been flown above Baltimore; Philadelphia; Compton, Calif.; and Dayton in demonstrations for police. They've also been used for traffic impact studies, for security at NASCAR races and at the request of a Mexican politician, who commissioned the flights over Ciudad Juarez.

## Civil liberty concerns

Defense contractors are developing similar technology for the military, but its potential for civilian use is raising novel civil liberty concerns. In Dayton, where Persistent Surveillance Systems is based, city officials balked last year when police considered paying for 200 hours of flights, in part because of privacy complaints.

"There are an infinite number of surveillance technologies that would help solve crimes ... but there are reasons that we don't do those things, or shouldn't be doing those things," said Joel Preece, a University of Dayton post-doctoral fellow in human rights who



Ty Wright/The Washington Post

**Persistent Surveillance Systems analyst Elizabeth Dils, at the company's command center in Dayton, Ohio, scrutinizes video footage of traffic patterns.**



McNutt

opposed the plan. "You know where there's a lot less crime? There's a lot less crime in China."

McNutt, a retired Air Force officer who

once helped design a similar system for the skies above Fallujah, a key battleground city in Iraq, hopes to win over officials in Dayton and elsewhere by convincing them that cameras mounted on fixed-wing aircraft can provide far more useful intelligence than police helicopters do, for less money. The Supreme Court generally has given wide latitude to police using aerial surveillance so long as the photography captures images visible to the naked eye.

A single camera mounted atop the Washington Monument could deter crime all around the National Mall, McNutt said. He thinks regular flights over the most dangerous parts of Washington — combined with publicity about how much police could now see — would make a significant dent in the number of burglaries, robberies and murders. His 192-megapixel cameras would spot as many as 50 crimes per six-hour flight, he estimates, providing police with a continuous stream of images covering more than a third of the city.

"We watch 25 square miles, so you see lots of crimes," he said. "And, by the way, after people commit crimes, they drive like idiots."

## A crime deterrent

What McNutt is trying to sell is not merely the latest technology for police. He envisions such steep drops in crime that they will bring substantial side effects, including rising property values, better schools, increased development and, eventually, lower incarceration rates as the reality of long-term overhead surveillance deters those tempted to commit crimes.

Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl, a supporter of McNutt's efforts, has even proposed inviting the public to visit the operations center, to get a glimpse of the technology in action.

"I want them to be worried that we're watching," he said. "I want them to be worried that they never know when we're overhead."

McNutt, a suburban father of four with a doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is not deaf to concerns about his company's ambitions. Unlike many of the giant defense contractors that are eagerly repurposing wartime surveillance technology for domestic use, he sought advice from the American Civil Liberties Union in writing a privacy policy.

It has rules on how long data can be kept, when images can be accessed and by whom. Police are supposed to begin looking at the pictures only after a crime has been reported. Pure fishing expeditions are prohibited.

The technology has inherent limitations as well. From the airborne cameras, each person appears as a single pixel indistinguishable from any other per-

son. What they are doing — even whether they are clothed or not — is impossible to see. As camera technology improves, McNutt said he intends to increase their range, not the precision of the imagery, so larger areas can be monitored.

The notion that McNutt and his roughly 40 employees are peeping Toms clearly rankles. They made a PowerPoint presentation for the ACLU that includes pictures taken to aid the response to Hurricane Sandy and the severe Iowa floods last summer. The section is titled: "Good People Doing Good Things."

"We get a little frustrated when people get so worried about us seeing them in their back yard," McNutt said in his operation center, where the walls are adorned with 120-inch monitors, each showing a different grainy urban scene collected from above.

"We can't even see what they are doing in their backyard. And, by the way, we don't care."

Yet in a world of increasingly pervasive surveillance, location and identity are becoming all but inextricable — one quickly leads to the other for those with the right tools.

## Court-imposed limits

Courts have put stricter limits on technology that can see things not visible to the naked eye, ruling that they can amount to unconstitutional searches when conducted without a warrant.

But the lines remain fuzzy as courts struggle to apply old precedents — from a single overflight carrying an officer armed with nothing stronger than a telephoto

lens, for example — to the rapidly advancing technology.

"If you turn your country into a totalitarian surveillance state, there's always some wrongdoing you can prevent," said Jay Stanley, a privacy expert with the American Civil Liberties Union. "The balance struck in our constitution tilts toward liberty, and I think we should keep that value."

Police and private businesses have invested heavily in video surveillance since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Though academics still debate whether the cameras create significantly lower crime rates, an overwhelming majority of Americans support them. A Washington Post poll in November found that only 14 percent of those surveyed wanted fewer cameras in public spaces.

Dayton police were enticed by McNutt's offer to fly 200 hours over the city for a hometown discount price of \$120,000. The city, with about 140,000 people, saw its police force shrink from more than 400 officers to about 350 in recent years, and there is little hope of reinforcements.

Still, the proposed contract, coming during Dayton's campaign season and amid a wave of revelations about National Security Agency surveillance, sparked resistance. Biehl is looking for a chance to revive the matter. But the new mayor, Nan Whaley, has reservations, both because of the cost and the potential loss of privacy.

"Since 2001, we haven't had really healthy conversations about personal liberty," Whaley said. "It's starting to bloom about a decade too late. I think the conversation needs to continue."

## NATION



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

A warning buoy sits on the dry, cracked bed of Lake Mendocino near Ukiah, Calif., on Tuesday.

## Calif. town's water shortage stokes fears

By JASON DEAREAN  
The Associated Press

WILLITS, Calif. — In this small logging town in Northern California's redwood country, small blue signs urging water conservation are almost everywhere you look.

Just south of Willits, in one of the state's most verdant corners, crows and other birds peck at dry ground that should be covered in water at the city's Centennial Reservoir, which is less than a third full. The creek that feeds it has slowed to a trickle.

"It's common at this time of year for the water to be going over the cement wall right here," said Bruce Burton, a Willits city councilman, gesturing toward the small cement dam in the creek. "In fact, we'd be standing in water. In the 20 years I've been in local government, we've never experienced this kind of condition."

While rain is predicted through the weekend in the northern and central parts of the state, California remains in the midst of a historic drought. The state's Department of Public Health says 17 rural areas including Willits — a town of about 5,000 that usually sees about 50 inches of rain per year — are dangerously low on water, and officials expect that number to grow.

In addition to declaring a drought emergency, California has canceled water deliveries from the state's water system to farms and thirsty cities and has shut down fishing in dozens of streams to protect imperiled salmon and steelhead.

The emergency has become a disruption to everyday life in Willits, a Mendocino County locale known as the final resting place of the racehorse Seabiscuit. City leaders have banned lawn watering and car washing, have mandated all residents cut water use dramatically and have asked restaurants to serve the precious resource only upon request and to conserve, such as by using paper plates.

While California sees cycles of drought normally, scientists say the dry weather since Oct. 1 appears to be unique in its severity.

"According to tree ring records, this year, which began Oct. 1, really stands out as one of the

worst single years in the last 500 years," said Lynn Ingram, author of "The West Without Water" and a University of California earth science professor.

"This year, the drought is impacting places more than we've ever seen, at least that I've come across in my research," she said.

Of the 17 water-starved rural agencies, three are in rainy Mendocino County and are districts that rely largely on rainwater to fill their reservoirs. Other areas include parts of Fresno, Kern and Santa Cruz counties.

After a record dry 2013, Mendocino County leaders were the first in California to declare a drought emergency, which they did on Jan. 7.

Things are so scarce that the sheriff's office is on alert for water bandits. During the 2009-10 drought, authorities caught thieves pumping water from Lake Mendocino into trucks. The reservoir is currently about 37 percent full, according to county officials.

"Water theft is a big concern, so we're doing public announcements and have a line to call for reports to the sheriff's department," said Carre Brown, a Mendocino County supervisor. "All deputies are on the watch."

Unlike many of the other communities facing water woes, Willits doesn't have readily accessible groundwater.

Officials are racing to develop two groundwater wells within city limits, but the water in both sources is polluted by naturally occurring arsenic and other minerals, so the city needs an expensive treatment facility to make it potable. The state public health department is testing the water to help determine what kind of treatment is needed.

Ron Owens, a spokesman for the state public health department, said officials are helping struggling towns like Willits identify other water options, like connecting with other water systems if need be. It also has some emergency funding available.

Meantime, officials say people in the bucolic town seem to be following the mandatory conservation orders.

Even the local coin-operated car wash is offering only recycled water.

# Storm leaves hundreds of thousands in the dark

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM  
AND JOANN LOVIGLIO  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Utility crews were working feverishly to restore power to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses in the eastern U.S. that were still in the dark and cold Thursday after an ice storm knocked out electricity to more than 1 million customers, damage one official likened to that from a hurricane.

The Northeast's second winter storm of the week dumped more than a foot of snow in some states on Wednesday, forcing schools, businesses and government offices to close, snarling air travel and sending cars and trucks sliding on slippery roads and highways — an all-too-familiar litany of misery in a winter where the storms seem to be tripping over

each other.

What made this one stand out — and caused all those outages — was the thick coating of ice it left on trees and power lines. While the storm has long since cleared out, its effects are expected to linger for days.

"People are going to have to have some patience at this point," Gov. Tom Corbett said Wednesday, warning that an overnight refreeze could cause more problems on the roads Thursday. The governor issued a disaster emergency proclamation, freeing up state agencies to use all available resources and personnel.

At its height, the storm knocked out power to nearly 849,000 customers in Pennsylvania, most of them in the counties around Philadelphia. Though sizeable, it's still less than the nearly 1.8 mil-

lion who were left without power after Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

PECO, southeastern Pennsylvania's dominant utility, warned it could be until the weekend before the lights come back on for all of its more than 431,000 customers without power Thursday morning. FirstEnergy was reporting almost 490,000 customers without power, while PPL was reporting more than 20,000.

In neighboring Maryland, where 76,000 customers were in the dark, power companies gave a restoration estimate of Friday. More than 7,000 New Jersey customers also lacked electricity.

Officials pleaded with people not to use generators or gas grills indoors after 20 to 25 people in the Philadelphia area were taken to hospitals with carbon monoxide poisoning.

## NC river turns to sludge after ash spill

By MICHAEL BIESECKER  
The Associated Press

ON THE DAN RIVER, N.C. — Canoe guide Brian Williams dipped his paddle downstream from where thousands of tons of coal ash has been spewing for days into the Dan River, turning the wooden blade flat to bring up a lump of gray sludge.

On the riverbank, hundreds of workers at a Duke Energy power plant in North Carolina scrambled to plug a hole in a pipe at the bottom of a 27-acre pond where

the toxic ash was stored.

Since the leak was first discovered by a security guard Sunday afternoon, Duke estimates up to 82,000 tons of ash mixed with 27 million gallons of contaminated water has spilled into the river. Officials at the nation's largest electricity provider say they cannot provide a timetable for when the leak will be fully contained, though the flow has lessened significantly as the pond has emptied.

An Associated Press reporter canoed downstream of the spill at the Dan River Steam Station and

saw gray sludge several inches deep, coating the riverbank for more than 2 miles. The Dan had crested overnight, leaving a distinctive, gray line that contrasted with the brown bank like a dirty ring on a bathtub.

Environmental regulators in North Carolina say they are still awaiting test results to determine if there is any hazard to people or wildlife. Coal ash is known to contain a witch's brew of toxic chemicals, including lead, arsenic, mercury and radioactive uranium.

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NATION

# Man-in-undies statue causes stir at college

The Associated Press

WELLESLEY, Mass. — A remarkably lifelike sculpture of a man sleepwalking in nothing but his underpants has made some Wellesley College students a bit uncomfortable, but the president of the prestigious women's school says that's all part of the intellectual process.

The sculpture titled "Sleep-walker" — of a man in an eyes-closed, zombie-like trance — is part of an exhibit by sculptor Tony Matelli at the college's Davis Museum. It was placed at a busy area of campus Monday and prompted an online student petition to have it removed.

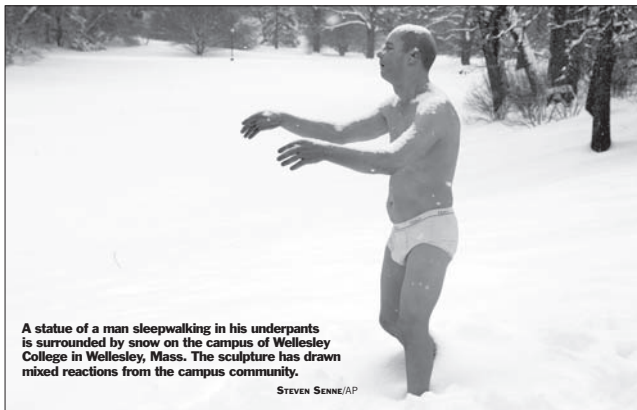
The sculpture is a "source of

apprehension, fear, and triggering thoughts regarding sexual assault" for many, according to the petition, which had nearly 300 signees Wednesday.

The petition started by junior Zoe Magid called on President H. Kim Bottomly to have the artwork removed.

That appeared unlikely, according to a joint statement issued Wednesday by Bottomly and museum director Lisa Fischman.

"The very best works of art have the power to stimulate deeply personal emotions and to provoke unexpected new ideas, and this sculpture is no exception," the statement said. The sculpture "has started an impassioned conversation about art, gender, sexuality



A statue of a man sleepwalking in his underpants is surrounded by snow on the campus of Wellesley College in Wellesley, Mass. The sculpture has drawn mixed reactions from the campus community.

STEVEN SENNE/AP

and individual experience, both on campus and on social media."

The sculpture was placed outdoors specifically to get a reaction and to connect the indoor exhibition with the world beyond, Fischman said.

"I love the idea of art escaping the museum and muddling the line between what we expect to be inside (art) and what we expect to

be outside (life)," she wrote.

Reaction from the campus community was mixed.

Freshman Bridget Schreiner told The Boston Globe she was "freaked out" the first time she saw the sculpture, thinking for a moment that a real, nearly naked man was lingering on campus.

"This could be a trigger for students who have experienced

sexual assault," she said.

Others were more understanding.

"I find it disturbing, but in a good way," English professor Sarah Wall-Randell said. "I think it's meant to be off-putting. It's a schlumpy guy in underpants in an all-women environment."

The exhibit is open through July 20.

# Fugitive at large 37 years captured

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Police say Judy Lynn Hayman's luck ran out after 37 years on the run not because of an intense manhunt but rather two disparate factors: bad weather that kept an investigator at his desk and her distinctive eyes that had never changed since her mug shot was taken.

San Diego police arrested the 60-year-old woman Monday at her San Diego apartment after receiving a mug shot from Michigan, where an officer staying off icy roads sent fingerprint cards for all old escapees to the FBI.

Authorities had been searching for Hayman since she escaped from Ypsilanti prison in 1977. Hayman served eight months of an 18- to 24-month sentence for attempting to steal clothes from a Detroit-area store.

San Diego police say Hayman identified herself as Jamie Lewis and produced government documents with the name. Officers, however, remained suspicious because of inconsistencies in her story and her resemblance to an old Michigan mug shot they had.

"Her eyes gave her away," San Diego police Lt. Kevin Mayer said.

She acknowledged being Hayman after a police took her in, Mayer said.



Judy Lynn Hayman

It wasn't immediately clear how long Hayman had been in San Diego. Neighbors at her apartment complex said she lived in the building for almost seven years.

Her 32-year-old son was visiting when police arrived, and officers said he appeared stunned.

Neighbors said the woman they know as Jamie Lewis kept to herself, not speaking of her past.

Hayman is being held in a San Diego County jail awaiting extradition to Michigan and was scheduled to appear in court Thursday.

Michigan authorities want her returned to the state to complete her sentence for attempted larceny. She also could face a separate criminal charge for the escape.

Lt. Charles Levens, of the Michigan Corrections Department, who sent the fingerprint cards to the FBI, said many police agencies had fingerprints that matched Hayman's but under different names. He gave the information to one of his investigators, Tim Hardville, who tracked her down in San Diego.

"I said, 'Tim, you're going to get your girl here,'" Levens said. "There are two ways to get off our list: a death certificate or a (live) body. It's what the state pays us to ... If you're a fugitive, you have an obligation to pay your debt to society."

# FAA to examine airport towers following injury

By JESSICA GRESKO

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A lightning strike that injured an air traffic controller at Baltimore's main airport has exposed a potential vulnerability at airport towers during storms and is prompting Federal Aviation Administration officials to inspect hundreds of towers nationwide. The Associated Press has learned.

The FAA will look for problems with the lightning protection systems for airport towers, where air traffic controllers do the vital job of choreographing the landings and takeoffs of flights.

The FAA told the AP about the

planned assessments of the towers' lightning protection systems after responding to a Freedom of Information Act request about the Sept. 12, 2013, lightning strike at the Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

The FAA said in a statement that the accident was "the first of its kind in FAA history," and the agency plans on "assessing the condition" of lightning protection systems at the 440 air traffic control towers it is responsible for across the country.

Because of their height, airport towers have a greater chance of being struck by lightning, and tower designers plan for the bolts.

Towers are built with lightning rods and wiring to direct the electrical current from a strike harmlessly into the ground. That protects the tower and equipment from damage and protects the air traffic controllers working inside.

During an afternoon thunderstorm last Sept. 12, air traffic controller Edward Boyd, who was working in the tower, saw sparks and heard an electrical snap coming from a piece of equipment that controls runway lighting.

He turned on a generator to ensure the airport's runway lighting stayed on. Boyd had his right hand on the generator switch when he saw lightning flash outside and felt a shock on his ring finger.

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## NATION



COURTESY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION/AP

Soldiers rescue Michelangelo's Madonna and Child in Altaussee, Austria, in 1945.

# Real 'monuments men' records on display in DC

By BRETT ZONGKER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When art historians saw Paris fall to the Nazis in World War II, they immediately realized Europe's vast monuments, art, cathedrals and architecture were at risk and began mobilizing to protect such treasures.

In Washington, the newly opened National Gallery of Art became the U.S. museum world's epicenter for lobbying President Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Allied forces in 1941 to prevent the destruction of Europe's monuments. Their efforts would create a corps of U.S. and British soldiers who worked to protect cultural sites and to recover looted art after the war.

Now for the first time, photographs, maps, correspondence and records — including lists of art amassed by Adolf Hitler and other Nazi leaders — from the corps of soldiers known as "monuments men" are going on display at the National Gallery of Art, an archives gallery at the Smithsonian's Donald W. Reynolds Center and the National Archives.

At the same time, George Clooney, Matt Damon and Kate Blanchett tell the story in "The Monuments Men" movie opening Friday, drawing new attention to the history. It's a story straight out of the nation's archives and art repositories from the records that real monuments men and women left behind.

One of them was George Leslie Stout, an art conservator at the Fogg Museum in Boston, who drafted a plan for a special military team to protect Europe's art

from Allied bombings. He even enlisted in the Navy with hopes of seeing his plan through. Leaders at the National Gallery of Art pressed the case with justices of the Supreme Court and the president, and their efforts led to the creation of the U.S. Army's Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section.

Shortly before D-Day, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower issued an order for every field commander to guard irreplaceable sites as Allied troops invaded the European mainland to defeat Germany. "Inevitably, in the path of our advance will be found historical monuments and cultural centers which symbolize to the world all that we are fighting to preserve," Eisenhower said in 1944. "It is the responsibility of every commander to protect and respect these symbols whenever possible."

Surrounded by the destruction of war, the monuments unit mapped important sites to save and later turned to recovering and returning stolen artwork — a change from the spoils-of-war practices of the past.

Personal papers from Stout and other "monuments men," including James Rorimer and Walker Hancock, were later acquired by the Archives of American Art and the National Gallery. Filmmakers consulted the archives in making the movie, including some of the records now displayed, said Kate Haw, director of the Smithsonian art archive.

"The movie will make a great story, and then people can come learn the history by coming to us," she said.

Rarely seen images now on view at the Smithsonian's American Art

Museum show a garden sculpture at the Palace of Versailles draped in camouflage netting for protection, the Neuschwanstein Castle in Germany where the Nazis amassed stolen art and the rescue of Michelangelo's 1504 sculpture "Madonna and Child," which had been stolen from a church in Bruges, Belgium.

Among the documents on display are the records of art historian Rose Valland who spied on the Nazis at the Paris museum where she worked and kept notes on plundered art, as well as the personal inventory of art looted for Nazi leader Hermann Goering's personal collection.

## Medal of Honor Museum seeking \$11M from SC

By BRUCE SMITH  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Organizers of a \$100 million National Medal of Honor Museum on the South Carolina coast are asking state lawmakers to provide \$11 million for the project.

"This will bring great exposure to the state of South Carolina," retired Marine Maj. Gen. James Livingston, the state's only living Medal of Honor recipient, told a House budget subcommittee. "This will put us on the map in a way we are not now as a national and international location."

Plans for the museum at the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Mount Pleasant were announced in 2012. The land is being leased to the museum by the state for 99 years for \$1 per year.

Livingston asked lawmakers to provide \$1 million in initial support and then \$2 million per year for five years. He said the project has been extensively studied and a business plan developed.

He added that the location on Charleston Harbor is fitting because the Medal of Honor was established during the Civil War, which began with the bom-

bardment of Fort Sumter in the harbor.

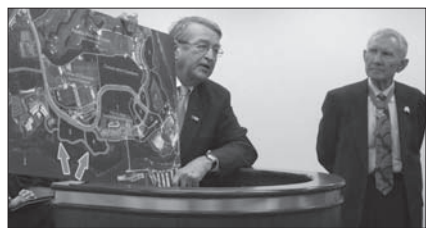
A master museum plan envisions, among other attractions, a uniform collection, a large-format theater where visitors can learn about sacrifices for freedom, a Great Hall honoring the recipients and an interactive media gallery where visitors can hear each recipient's story.

"Think about it as a place where young Americans or older Americans can come in the front door and come out re-energized about what we are as a people," Livingston said. "It's not about guns and uniforms. It's about a message to reinforce what we should be as a country."

State Rep. Chip Limehouse, the chairman of the subcommittee, said getting the money won't be easy. "That's a big ask, particularly in this budget year, but you don't get it if you don't ask," he said.

The state money would be added to funds raised through a nationwide fundraising campaign by the nonprofit National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation.

Livingston said there are only 76 surviving recipients of the nation's highest award for valor and only six are from World War II.



BRUCE SMITH/AP

Carlyle Blakeney, left, the vice chairman of the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation, and Medal of Honor recipient retired Marine Maj. Gen. James Livingston show South Carolina state lawmakers a map of the location for a planned Medal of Honor Museum on Tuesday in Columbia, S.C.

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STARS AND STRIPES

## NATION

Debbie Jurcak, a mother of three, selects a loaf of bread at the West Suburban Community Pantry in Woodridge, Ill., on Jan. 16.

MARTHA IRVINE/AP



A recent report from the Urban Institute found that, in an average month, there are still three times as many children living with parents who've been out of work more than six months as there were in 2007, before the recession hit. Illinois, where Debbie Jurcak and her family live, is among the states with the highest percentage of children in that predicament, with nearly 5 percent of them living with parents who are long-term unemployed, according to the report.

# ‘Long-term unemployed’

## ONE MOTHER'S STORY

BY MARTHA IRVINE  
The Associated Press

AURORA, Ill. — Down the road from an emergency food pantry where a small crowd waits for the chance to gather free groceries, there is a church sign that reads: “If you need help, ask God. If you don’t, thank God.”

Debbie Jurcak, one of those in line, will tell you that it is indeed divine help — or, anyway, faith-based organizations — that she and her family have relied on in recent weeks. Late in December, the federal government ended her unemployment benefits, six months after she was laid off from an administrative job.

Having passed that six-month mark, she had joined the ranks of the “long-term unemployed,” a growing group of more than 1.3 million Americans for whom Congress recently declined to extend benefits. It is a label that Jurcak, a former teacher with two master’s degrees, never expected would apply to her.

“It’s not something you want to go around talking about all the time. I think a lot of people don’t share what the depth of their need is,” the mother of three said, wiping tears from underneath her glasses as she waited for her turn at the West Suburban Community Pantry, outside Chicago.

“But ... there’s no room for pride,” she said. “Because we all come to a point in our life — whether it’s financial reasons, or medical reasons, or mental health reasons, or whatever they are — where you recognize your need for help.”

Turns out, Jurcak, 43, is one of the lucky ones, or so she hopes. After months applying for jobs, she learned just days after her visit to the pantry, that she got a customer service job, which she started the last week of January. It’s only temporary for now and the pay is modest. But if she proves herself, there’s a good chance she’ll be hired permanently, she said.

Her husband, Frank, is working for a temp agency, driving a forklift or delivering documents for \$12 an hour. He, too, is awaiting word on a full-time job, his in law enforcement.

Permanent employment would mean major changes for this family and for their children.

Unable to cover January rent, the couple sought emergency aid from the Society of St. Vincent De Paul — an organization that regularly collects clothing and household donations from residents at their apartment complex. Their church plans to help them with February’s rent payment, bridging the gap from the loss of Jurcak’s unemployment benefits to her first paycheck.

Even before those benefits were cut off, the couple had sold many of their household belongings at secondhand shops to help pay the bills.

At the West Suburban Community Pantry, where Jurcak has gotten many of her groceries in recent months, workers say it’s not unusual to see unemployed professionals, including the occasional out-of-work CEO, even as the economy improves. And always, there are families.

One day, hopefully soon, Jurcak said, she vows to “pay it forward” and be the one to do the giving.

She also hopes members of Congress will find a way to reinstate long-term benefits, at least until the economy is stronger.

“I don’t want to rely on my government — and quite frankly, I’m not convinced that it’s really government’s role to do all that it is asked to do,” Jurcak said. “But it shouldn’t ignore the needs of the people either.”

Her voice shook when she said “ignore.”

“Maybe until you’re in the situation, you don’t really get it.”

**“I think a lot of people don’t share what the depth of their need is.”**  
Debbie Jurcak  
unemployed mother of three

## WORLD



KARIM KADIM/AP

Municipality workers prepare to remove debris from the site of a car bomb attack in the Shaab neighborhood of Baghdad on Thursday. A string of car bomb attacks hit commercial areas of the city.

# String of car bombs kills 13 civilians in Iraqi capital

By SAMEER N. YACOB  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Car bomb attacks hit commercial areas in Baghdad on Thursday, killing at least 13 people, Iraqi officials said.

Police officials said the deadliest attack took place when a car bomb went off near auto spare parts shops in downtown Baghdad, killing four people and wounding nine.

Two car bombs exploded in the eastern neighborhood of Jamila and the northern neighborhood of Kazimiyah. In each at least three civilians were killed. Twenty-two civilians were wounded in these attacks.

Police added that other explosives-laden cars went

off in the central Karrada area, the northern Shaab neighborhood and the eastern Batol neighborhood. Three civilians were killed and 26 wounded.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to release information.

The bombings came a day after 34 people were killed in multiple explosions, mainly in the heart of Baghdad.

Violence has escalated in Iraq over the past year. Last year, the country saw the highest death toll since the worst of the country's sectarian bloodletting began to subside in 2007, according to United Nations figures. The U.N. said violence killed 8,868 last year in Iraq.

## Iran's president regrets food ration problems

By NASSER KARIMI  
The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — In a rare expression of regret by an Iranian official, President Hassan Rouhani said Thursday that he is sorry for any troubles with the distribution of a food ration to the poor, following reports that three people have died waiting for the goods in subzero weather.

Local media have reported that the three died in recent days while standing in line in freezing temperatures. Authorities were quoted as saying that they had pre-existing heart problems.

Most provinces in Iran have experienced unusually low temperatures in recent days.

Rouhani told state TV that he "as the president expresses regret if people have faced trouble in receiving the commodity basket."

It's unusual for an official in Iran to take responsibility for problems in a governmental plan.

The ration for the poor includes eggs, cooking oil, chicken, rice and cheese. The program was instituted under Rouhani's predecessor, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, originally just for government workers.

Rouhani's administration decided to extend it from 3 million people to 17 million, out of a total population of 76 million. The plan is largely intended to counteract inflation, fed by the sanctions imposed on Iran over its nuclear program.

Abolhasan Firoozabadi, the deputy labor minister who handles the plan, told the official IRNA news

agency that more than 11 million baskets of goods have been distributed so far.

But the lines to receive the goods are very long. "I returned home empty-handed after waiting three hours in the line. They said they did not have enough stuff for today," said Zahr Sadri, a mother of three.



Rouhani

Ramin Pakzad, a part-time worker, said he tried and failed to find a line short enough that he wouldn't risk losing his job by standing in it.

Rouhani's opponents have leaned on the failures of the plan, with the hard-line Javan daily declaring it a "national humiliation."

Even many of his supporters acknowledge its shortcomings. "I think this is an uncalculated idea that government applied hastily and without any precautions," said Sadegh Zibakalam, a Tehran University politics professor who supported Rouhani in June presidential elections.

One Tehran-based analyst, Saeed Leilaz, said he believed that Rouhani failed to sort out those poor enough to qualify for the plan. Officials routinely complain that Iran lacks basic demographic data.

However, Leilaz said, Rouhani managed to lower inflation considerably since he took office in August.

## Amid protests, Ukraine more divided than ever

By MARIA DANILOVA  
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — The mayor of a western city warned that his police would fight any troops sent in by the president. The governor of an eastern region posted an image of an opposition lawmaker beaten bloody, saying he couldn't contain his laughter.

**ANALYSIS** Two months into Ukraine's anti-government

protests, the sides are only moving further apart.

To be sure, Ukraine has never been monolithic. Russia and Europe have vied for dominance for centuries, fostering deep cultural differences between the mostly Ukrainian-speaking western and central regions that yearn for ties with the West, and the Russian-speaking east and south that looks to Russia for support.

As the crisis has deepened, each side has grown stronger in its convictions — and those who stood in the middle have been forced to choose sides.

The demonstrations began with an old question: Should Ukraine follow a European path or move closer into Russia's sphere? In November, President Viktor Yanukovich — after years of touting a political and economic treaty with the European Union — had abruptly walked out on it in favor of a bailout loan from Russia. But the crisis changed significantly a week later when riot police violently broke up a small, peaceful rally in the middle of the night on Kiev's central square.

Suddenly, the calls for EU integration were replaced with demands for Yanukovich's ouster and a new government that would guarantee human rights and democratic freedoms. Slogans such as "Ukraine is Europe" were replaced by "Down with the gang!"

The divide deepened further as peaceful protests turned ever

more violent. Last month, after four protesters were killed and police were widely reported to have beaten and abused activists, the opposition's anger became more intense. And Yanukovich's supporters were appalled by images of riot policemen set aflame by protesters' Molotov cocktails, the toppling of a statue of former Soviet leader Vladimir Lenin and the occupation of government buildings.

The differing visions are rooted in cultural realities. To the west, protest-friendly Lviv feels like a typical European city, with cobblestone streets, Catholic churches and outdoor cafes. To the east, the Yanukovich stronghold of Kharkiv is an industrial city with massive Soviet architecture and a giant Lenin statue.

Linguistics also come into play in a country where roughly 40 percent of people speak Ukrainian at home, a third speak Russian and a quarter speak both. The two languages are closely related and it is not uncommon for one Ukrainian to address another in one language and hear a response in another. Most speakers on Kiev's Independence Square address the crowds in Ukrainian, but both languages are heard at the barricades.

But what for years have been friendly rivalries became tense feuds as the violence increased. The mayors of western and eastern cities traded barbs, while on the streets of Kiev — roughly in the center of the country — angry protesters tossed firebombs and rocks at police, who responded with tear gas and rubber bullets.

The country now stands split nearly down the middle. According to a December poll by the Razumkov Center think tank, 50 percent of Ukrainians supported the protests while 43 percent opposed them. The poll, which interviewed 2,010 people across Ukraine in person, had a margin of error of 2.3 percentage points.



EFREN LUKATSKY/AP

Anti-government protesters prepare to rally in Kiev's Independence Square, the epicenter of the country's current unrest, in Ukraine on Thursday. The threat of new protest violence in Ukraine is tapering off but the country's two-month-old political and economic crisis remains far from being resolved, the European Union's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said Wednesday.

## WORLD

## LOOKING UP

Boom in construction of high-rises, luxury homes to alter London's historic look

By DANICA KIRKA  
The Associated Press

## LONDON

**T**he face of London is about to change.

Dozens of buildings of 20 stories or more are under construction or planned along the south bank of the River Thames just upstream from Big Ben and the majestic dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. The development surge, fueled by wealthy foreigners looking for a safe place to invest, has spawned concern that the city is sacrificing its heritage for the sake of luxury homes.

"London is in danger of becoming a sort of Abu Dhabi, a sort of Hong Kong," warned Nigel Barker, of English Heritage, a body devoted to protecting the nation's inheritance.

## London grows up

It's not that London lacks distinctive tall buildings: the 87-story Shard stabs the sky south of London Bridge, the 41-story Gherkin rises above the financial district, and soon there will be the 38-story Walkie Talkie, all of which earned their nicknames because of their unique shapes.

Critics are concerned about the sheer number of new projects — some 200 in various stages of consideration or construction, according to New London Architecture, an independent group studying development. Many of them are residential properties clustered along the south side of the Thames with views of the water and the architectural treasures across the river.

Unease about tall buildings in this city, which prides itself in having risen from the ashes of the Great Fire in 1666, isn't new. Architectural purists like Prince Charles, the heir to the throne, have long warned against skyscrapers.

Economic forces following the 2008 economic crisis have rekindled the con-

**'London is in danger of becoming a sort of Abu Dhabi, a sort of Hong Kong.'**

Nigel Barker  
English Heritage

flict between development and conservation. While the government seeks to rein in the financial services industry, London continues to attract foreign money and wealthy expatriates, straining the city's Victorian-era infrastructure and widening the wealth gap.

The independent Smith Institute estimated in 2012 that investment in luxury homes was \$8.3 billion a year. In the two years through June 2013, foreign nationals bought 69 percent of the newly built homes that sold for more than 1 million pounds in central London, according to an October report by Knight Frank, a London property adviser.

"It is a honeypot for global capital," said Peter Murray, chairman of New London Architecture. "So we're seeing pressures we've never experienced before. The movement of global capital is having a dramatic effect on how we plan the city."

## Rooms with a view

As governments poured money into banks to save them during the financial crisis, rich people around the world sought safe places to park their money. Investors flocked to London because of the stability of Britain's government, the city's vibrancy and its tolerance for newcomers.

"We didn't know that the U.K. in general, and London in particular, would be seen as a safe haven for people all over the world," said Tony Travers, an expert on issues facing the capital at the London School of Economics. "Property in London was treated as an asset class that was safer than say, banks in Cyprus."

From 2007, just before the crisis, to

October 2013, house prices in London's most desirable neighborhoods rose sharply. In Kensington & Chelsea, home to Kensington Palace and Notting Hill, average prices rose 42 percent to 1.2 million pounds, according to the Smith Institute. In the City of Westminster, which hosts the Houses of Parliament, prices jumped 43 percent to 863,000 pounds.

Prices for newly built homes on the south bank of the river are even higher. A four-bedroom, 6,600 square-foot apartment in the 50-story Tower at St. George Wharf is being offered for 19.5 million pounds.

## The place to be

The boom is also a reflection of London's attractiveness as one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities. With a population of 8.2 million, London boasts not just people from all corners of the former Empire, but everywhere else, too. There are more French citizens living in London, for example, than in Bordeaux. Then there are some 250,000 Americans.

Demand for housing has spurred development, with a dozen construction cranes jutting into the sky along the south bank of the river west of Westminster Bridge.

The work is part of a 15 billion-pound collection of projects known as Nine Elms, which promoters say

will create 16,000 new homes, 25,000 jobs and an "internationally significant business district" in the boroughs of Lambeth and Wandsworth.

Deputy mayor for planning Edward Lister said there's a strategic approach to protecting the city's skyline, with detailed policies making sure the right buildings are in the right place.

"What we can't do is try to impose some kind of freeze on the skyline and suspend the capital in stasis," he said.

Others aren't so sure about it all, among them UNESCO's World Heritage Committee, the moral overseer of sites of importance. It has expressed concern about development near the Houses of Parliament, fearing it will ruin the view from Westminster, and has urged authorities "to ensure that these proposals are not approved in their current form."

Should the committee ultimately put the site on its endangered list, it would be an embarrassment for Britain, which takes pride in safeguarding its national treasures.

## Now you see it ...

Critics say the power of local councils to approve construction is leading to disconnected planning — even though city authorities have the final say. The city, critics complain, is being redesigned via mission creep, one skyscraper at a time.

That's a problem for people like Barker, who wants the city to look more closely at the overall picture and to remember that tourists — to say nothing of investors — come to see parks, squares, bell towers and palaces.

"London trades on its look more than other cities," he said.

He hopes there will be more awareness of the changes the city faces. Paul Hackett, the Smith Institute's director, argued local government decisions should face more scrutiny.

"There should be a public discussion," he said. "If there are 200 tall buildings planned, that's fine. But there should be a proper debate."

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FAITH

# Come to play stay to pray



PHOTOS BY PABLO ALCALA, LEXINGTON HERALD-LEADER/MCT

Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church in Midway, Ky., is building a 61,300-square-foot recreation facility to serve its 2,000 members.

## Church in rural Ky. building recreation facility as service, invitation to community

BY MARY MEEHAN  
Lexington Herald Leader

**T**ORKS OF ELKHORN, Ky. Odd Lester, pastor of Forks of Elkhorn Baptist Church near Midway, Ky., knows people don't always come to church through the front door.

In fact, he understands the sentiment so well his congregation is investing millions of dollars in a recreational facility to rival many commercial gyms, hoping that people who come to play will stay to pray in his rural Kentucky church.

The church is building a 61,300-square-foot addition that will include an elevated walking track, two basketball courts, a workout room, weight rooms and all manner of classes and athletic leagues.

Lester said the new CROSS center — which stands for Christian Recreation Outreach Strengthening Souls — is an amped-up version of a tool he's used for years in his ministry — the church basketball or softball league.

Lester hopes it will be a service to, and an invitation for, the community.

"They might come in through the back door or side door," he said. "Hopefully, we will get them into the sanctuary."

Lester knows show to attract people to church, his church most specifically. When he started at Forks of Elkhorn



Pastor Todd Lester, left, and recreation director Lee Rainwater at the construction site of the church's CROSS center.

about 15 years ago, the congregation had 35 members meeting in the same small building where it had begun services more than 200 years ago.

He built a sandwich board kind of sign to place out on U.S. Highway 421 just to let people know that the little chapel was in business down Duckers Lane, north

of Midway, south of Frankfort, Ky., and surrounded by farm land.

Lester doubled the church's membership in the first few years. Since then Forks of the Elkhorn Baptist Church has grown to 2,000 members, and in 2003 the congregation moved into a new, modern church building.

The planning for the recreation center began about four years ago, Lester said. At the time, in the midst of the recession, the economy didn't seem ripe for a large building campaign. But, he and the congregation were rapidly outgrowing its current space and needed a larger area for children's ministry. Church members agreed there was a recreational need to be met, too, and a way to reach out to the community.

"The body is the temple of God," Lester said. "When we give our lives to Christ, we have to try to take care of the temple."

The new church building — scheduled to open in late spring or early summer — has provided the church with experience in tackling a big project. As a sign of commitment to the effort, the project, which cost \$3.5 million in 2003, and was paid off in six years, Lester said.

The church has hired a recreational director, Lee Rainwater, who had worked in physical education at Asbury University for 16 years.

The center will have state-of-the-art

equipment but a decidedly different atmosphere than most gyms, Rainwater said. A dress code with an eye toward modesty will be enforced and families will be encouraged to participate together.

"We don't want anybody to feel intimidated," Rainwater said, adding that he plans to work with local schools, such as Georgetown and Midway colleges, to offer internships to students majoring in recreation or related fields.

Church members will be able to use the facilities for free, Lester said, and members of the community will pay a nominal fee, although specifics haven't been determined. There won't be a hard sell on gym membership, both men say. Instead, as people get to know each other while working out it's possible that an invitation to Sunday worship services might be extended, Lester said.

The theme of tending to body, mind and spirit will become more evident throughout the church as the opening of the center nears, Lester said. Even as the physical space occupied by the church grows, the small town heart of the church will be preserved.

Plus, you're likely to see Lester out on the basketball court because he doesn't want to be the guy "in a suit on Sunday morning at the pulpit."

"I still go out there and play," he said.

## WORLD

# Bear bile business in S. Korea dwindling

By HYUNG-JIN KIM  
The Associated Press

DANGJIN, South Korea — Several bears lie on top of each other, as still as teddy bears, as they gaze out past rusty iron bars. Others pace restlessly. The ground below their metal cages is littered with feces, Krispy Kreme doughnuts, dog food and fruit. They've been kept in these dirty pens since birth, bred for a single purpose: to be killed for their bile.

But these bears aren't dying. The industry is.

Though their bile has been used as medicine in Asia for thousands of years, cheaper foreign sources, growing skepticism over bear bile's medicinal value and worries about international condemnation have led to a huge drop in South Korean demand. Kim KwangSoo, the owner of this farm in Dangjin, about 75 miles south of Seoul, said he hasn't



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

A bear looks out from a cage at a bear farm in Dangjin, south of Seoul, South Korea.

had a bear bile customer in five years.

That, however, doesn't ensure the animals a peaceful future. The government is offering farmers money and incentives to sterilize or slaughter their bears, but the farmers are demanding much more.

Kim, secretary general of a bear farmers' association, said farmers are considering suing or even more drastic measures — such as harming their bears — if they can't reach a deal. He said farmers will raise the issue of greater government compensation during a meeting with government officials and civilian experts Thursday.

To highlight their grievances, farmers in November brought caged bears to downtown Seoul and near a government complex in the city of Sejong. Kim said farmers are now considering hauling bears, 20 per cage, to the Se-

jong government complex in the hope that the fighting, cramped animals will bring them attention.

"People talk about animal welfare ... but bear farmers aren't getting any welfare," said Yun Youngdeok, who runs a bear farm near Seoul. "We feel like we are dying earlier (than our bears)."

South Korea is one of the few countries that allow the farming of bears to extract bile for traditional medicine. About 50 farms are raising about 1,000 bears, mostly Asiatic black bears, also known as moon bears. Kim said South Koreans were once willing to pay between \$18,450 to \$27,680 to have a bear slaughtered for its bile. But farmers ran into trouble about a decade ago, when bear bile from China and Vietnam became more readily available.

## Questions raised about 'Japan's Beethoven'

The Associated Press

TOKYO — The ghostwriter for the musician lauded as Japan's Beethoven said Thursday he became fed up and ended their 18-year collaboration last year and he questioned if Mamoru Samuragochi really could hear.

Samuragochi, 50, had previously claimed to be the sole author of his classical works and sound tracks for video games, such as "Biohazard," despite having lost his hearing by age 35. His story resonated in Japan, where perseverance is greatly admired. But he admitted Wednesday that he did not write the powerful "Hiroshima Symphony" and other works credited to him.

His ghost composer, Takashi Niigaki, said he provided music for Samuragochi for 18 years and questioned if he was hearing impaired.

"I saw no signs that he could not hear," Niigaki said.

A written statement from Samuragochi's lawyers apologized for what he called a "betrayal" of his fans and described Samuragochi as being in "too unstable an emotional state" to appear in public.

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## FACES



PHOTOS BY TRAE PATTON, NBC/AP

Rachel Frederickson appears on the Feb. 4 finale of "The Biggest Loser" in Los Angeles. Frederickson lost nearly 60 percent of her body weight to win the latest season and pocket \$250,000. A day after her grand unveiling on NBC, she faced a firestorm of criticism on social media from people who said she went too far.

# How much is too much?

## Shocking transformation of 'Biggest Loser' champion challenges notion that the show touts healthy habits

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI AND JEFF BAENEN  
The Associated Press

A day after Rachel Frederickson won the latest season of "The Biggest Loser," after shedding nearly 60 percent of her body weight, attention wasn't focused on her \$250,000 win — but rather the criticism surrounding her loss.

Experts cautioned that regardless of her current weight, the criticism being levied on social media about her losing too much isn't helpful. A more constructive message is needed, they say, centering on body image and healthy living.

The 5-foot-4, 24-year-old Frederickson dropped from 260 pounds to 105 under the show's rigorous exercise and diet regimen — but also time spent on her own before the finale. She was a three-time prep state champion swimmer in Minnesota, and said she turned to sweets for solace after a failed romance and gained the weight over several years.

Frederickson's newly thin frame lit up Twitter on Wednesday, with many viewers pointing to the surprised expressions on the faces of trainers Jillian Michaels and Bob Harper during the show's Tuesday night finale. Many tweeted that Frederickson looked anorexic and unhealthy, while others congratulated her for dropping 155 pounds.

Frederickson's body mass index, a measure of height and weight, is below the normal range, said Jillian Lampert, senior director of the Emily Program, an eating disorder treatment program based in St. Paul, Minn. But she said the criticism directed against Frederickson isn't helpful.

"As a society we often criticize people for being at higher weights — that's part of why we have the TV show 'The Biggest Loser' — and then we feel free to criticize lower weight," Lampert said.



Frederickson trains during the first episode.

A more constructive message to send young people would center on well-rounded health and the importance of eating well, moving well and sleeping well, she said.

"We certainly see a lot of people who struggle with eating disorders who use the same behaviors on that show to an extreme," she said. "That can't be helpful."

During an appearance on "Access Hollywood," Frederickson didn't directly respond to the criticism but said she intends to live a healthy lifestyle going forward.

"My journey was about finding that confident girl again. Little by little, challenge by challenge, that athlete came out. And it sparked inside me this feeling that I can do anything I can conceive. And I found that girl, and I'm just going to embrace her fully," she said.

In a statement released late Wednesday, NBC said it was committed to helping all of the show's past contestants live healthier lives.

# Ed Sullivan Beatles item heads to auction

The Associated Press

A large piece of stage backdrop autographed by the Beatles during their first live U.S. concert 50 years ago is headed to auction, where it could draw \$800,000 to \$1 million.

Face caricatures accompany the signatures that the Fab Four penned between sets of their historic Ed Sullivan appearance on Feb. 9, 1964, which they opened with "All My Loving" in front of 700 screaming fans in the audience and 73 million television viewers.

The current owner of the 4-foot-by-2-foot plastic wall section is Andy Geller, a longtime Beatles collector and television and film voice-over artist. It is being sold in New York City on April 26 through the Dallas-based auction house Heritage Auctions.

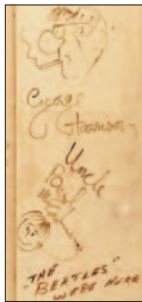
A stagehand is responsible for getting the band members to sign the back of the wall section known as a hardwall traveler, which is rolled back and forth to reveal the next act. It's believed to be the largest Beatles autograph.

"It was a spur-of-the-moment thing," 81-year-old Jerry Gort said in a telephone interview from his Calabasas, Calif., home. "They came down from stage right from their dressing rooms, I gave them a marker and asked them to sign the wall."

The band signed vertically from the bottom up: John Lennon first, then Paul McCartney, who scribbled "Uncle Paul McCartney," followed by George Harrison. Ringo Starr, shorter than the rest, couldn't reach the top so "I put my arms around him and lifted him," said Gort, simultaneously putting his foot on the wall

to keep it from opening until Ringo finished signing the piece.

Gort said Ringo then "made a mad dash to get to his drums" and the band launched into "I Saw Her Standing There" and "I Want to Hold Your Hand."



HERITAGE AUCTIONS/AP  
A section of a backdrop wall (shown in part) signed by the Beatles is going up for auction.

without knowing its history.

Heritage's music memorabilia consentment director Garry Schrum called the wall "an amazing wild card," which he said could go for \$800,000 to \$1 million.

The wall also contains the signature of other acts that followed later in the television season, notably from the Searchers, another British band, which signed "The Searchers Were Here with Kilroy 4/5/64."

At the end of the season, the wall was destined for the trash heap — but was saved by another carpenter for a young disabled Beatles fan.

Geller said he purchased the wall privately for more than \$100,000 in 2002

## Dylan Farrow's brother defends Woody Allen

Woody Allen's adopted son has defended him against accusations he molested his then-7-year-old adopted daughter in 1992.

Moses Farrow told People magazine in an interview published Wednesday that Allen "of course" did not molest Moses' younger sister, Dylan Farrow.

Moses Farrow and Dylan Farrow were adopted by Allen and actress Mia Farrow. Dylan Farrow recently wrote an open letter to The New York Times saying she was abused.

New York Times public editor Margaret Sullivan, who had been critical of the Times' handling of Dylan Farrow's accusation, wrote in an online post Wednesday that Allen has requested the opportunity to submit a response to her letter. A spokeswoman for the Times confirmed that Allen's request was granted.

## 'Octomom' faces additional welfare fraud charge

"Octomom" Nadya Suleman was charged with a fourth count of welfare fraud Wednesday after prosecutors said they discovered she wrongly collected an additional \$10,000 in benefits from the state.

When the single mother of 14 children was charged last month with three counts of fraud, authorities said she didn't disclose about \$30,000 in earnings from videos and personal appearances when she applied for welfare last year.



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

## Material advocate

Pop icon Madonna (pictured) didn't perform, but she spoke with passion about human rights issues, at Amnesty International's "Bringing Human Rights Home" Feb. 5 in New York City.

"The right to be free, to speak our minds, to have an opinion, to love who we want to love, to be who we are — do we have to fight for that?" Madonna said, answering herself with an expletive. "I've always considered myself a freedom fighter since the early '80s when I realized I had a voice and I could sing more than songs about being a material girl or feeling like a virgin."

The concert included performances from the Flaming Lips, Imagine Dragons, Lauryn Hill, Blondie, Debbie Harry, Cake, the Fray, Bob Geldof, Tegan and Sara, Colbie Caillat and Cold War Kids.

— The Associated Press

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man dies after fight over jukebox music

**NV** LAS VEGAS — A Las Vegas man is accused of killing another man in a fist-fight after fighting with him about jukebox music at a bar.

Police arrested Luis Miguel Chavarin, 31, after the fight happened around 4 a.m. at the Loose Caboose on West Flamingo Road.

Chavarin told officers he was at the tavern with his friend when he started arguing with another man about the music on the jukebox, according to a police report. When the man started swearing at him, "pushing his buttons" and getting close, Chavarin said he feared a "sucker punch" and hit him.

When the victim hit the ground and went unconscious, Chavarin tried to help him, witnesses said. Chavarin told police he didn't intend to seriously hurt the man, and stayed at the scene to take responsibility for the incident, according to the report.

## Student to modify hair to get back into class

**NM** LOS LUNAS — A compromise has been reached for a New Mexico sixth-grader who was told his hairstyle violated a school policy.

Administrators at Los Lunas Elementary told an Albuquerque TV station that Marcus Chavez, 11, showed up for classes with tribal art design razor-cut into his hair by a barber.

School officials said policy in their handbook doesn't allow unnatural colors and haircuts for students so that it doesn't distract or disrupt other pupils.

School officials said the boy's mother agreed to have a barber modify her son's haircut or darken the shaved spots.

Once that is done, the school's superintendent said, Marcus will be back in the classroom.

## Couple charged after kid calls 911 15 times

**NY** LOWVILLE — Authorities have charged a northern New York woman and her boyfriend because the woman's 2-year-old daughter used their cellphones to dial 911 a total of 15 times last month.

Village of Lowville Police Officer Matthew Martin said the 23-year-old mother and her 33-year-old boyfriend told him they tried to keep their phones away from the persistent toddler, but the girl kept getting them and dialing 911.

Martin spoke to the couple Wednesday after Lewis County 911 dispatchers reported that a child had called 14 times in January. Martin said the child called 911 a 15th time later that night.

He charged the couple the next day with obstructing government administration.

## Man admits to college bathroom beating

**OH** CINCINNATI — An Ohio college student

## THE CENSUS

# \$43K

The amount of money workers found in the pockets of suits and a robe while going through donated clothing at a Michigan thrift store. Goodwill manager Tyler Gedelman told The Monroe Evening News that he sometimes finds loose change in clothing, but nothing like what happened Wednesday at the Monroe store. Stuffed in envelopes in the pockets were tidy stacks of \$100 bills.



LARA CERRI, THE TAMPA BAY (FLA.) TIMES/AP

## No snow? No problem

Two people lounge with a view of the Gulf of Mexico from Pass-a-Grille in St. Pete Beach, Fla., on Tuesday.

who admitted to beating and robbing a delivery man in a campus bathroom — then tried to have the man killed so he couldn't testify — is facing 30 years in prison.

Kendall Flucas, 21, pleaded guilty Monday to aggravated robbery, felonious assault and conspiracy to commit murder.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that Flucas beat the man with a rock and his fists and stole his money.

When several people asked him about the noise in the bathroom, Flucas told them a man was having bowel issues.

## Gallup polls: State is least religious

**VT** MONTPELIER — Gallup says that Vermont is the least religious state in the nation.

Poll results show that 22 percent of Vermonters identify as

"very religious" and 56 percent of Vermonters identify as "nonreligious."

New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts and Oregon join Vermont to make up the top five least religious states in the country.

Gallup based the results on more than 174,000 interviews done during Gallup Daily tracking in 2013.

## Family faces decision on its illegal pet pig

**FL** PENSACOLA — The Kirkmans of Pensacola are facing a deadline in deciding what to do about their pet pot-bellied pig named Buttercup.

The pig is in violation of the city of Pensacola's ordinance banning "livestock" within city limits. They've given the family until May to move, get rid of Buttercup or persuade the city council to change the ordinance.

David Kirkman, his wife Laura and their children, Molly, 9, and Butch, 7, say Buttercup isn't livestock. They say she's a pet they've raised since she was 5 weeks old.

The Pensacola News Journal reported the code enforcement board cited the family in December after receiving an anonymous tip that they were keeping a pig on their property.

Council member Sherri Myers is taking up the cause. She thinks the ordinance is outdated.

## Pastor sets a new Guinness world record

**IN** FREMONT — A northern Indiana pastor and his wife have earned a place in the Guinness World Records by setting an unusual — and painful — world record.

John and Amy Bruney became the new champs in Guinness' category of one person skipping rope

on a bed of nails resting that's on top of another person.

Bruney placed a 125-pound board bristling with 3,000 nails that had been hammered through it on his chest and stomach. To break the old record, Amy had to skip a rope at least 70 times, but she managed to skip rope atop that board a record-setting 117 times.

"I told her, 'Don't stop no matter what you hear below,'" John Bruney told The Journal Gazette.

Bruney, who's pastor of Zion Missionary Church in the far northeastern Indiana town of Fremont, stages inspirational strong-man shows around the country a handful of times each year, the newspaper reported.

He performs stunts such as driving nails with his bare hand, tearing phone books in half and snapping chains wrapped around his chest.

From wire reports

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Tobacco plan could ripple beyond CVS

By TOM MURPHY  
AND MICHAEL FELBERBAUM  
The Associated Press

CVS Caremark's decision to pull cigarettes and other tobacco products from its stores could ripple beyond the nation's second-largest drugstore chain.

The move, which drew praise from President Barack Obama, doctors and anti-smoking groups when it was announced on Wednesday, puts pressure on other retailers to stop selling to-

bacco as well. CVS Caremark Corp. said it will phase out tobacco by Oct. 1 in its 7,600 stores nationwide as it shifts toward being more of a health care provider.

CVS, based in Woonsocket, R.I., follows a precedent set by other drugstores. Most independent pharmacies abstain from tobacco sales, according to the National Community Pharmacists Association. Pharmacies in Europe also don't sell cigarettes, and neither does major U.S. retailer Target

Corp., which operates some pharmacies in its stores.

But the world's largest retailer, Wal-Mart Stores Inc., which also operates pharmacies, does sell tobacco. So do CVS competitors Walgreen Co. and Rite Aid Corp.

Both Walgreen and Rite Aid representatives said Wednesday that they are always evaluating what they offer customers and whether that meets their needs.

Gabelli Funds analyst Jeff Jonas agrees. "I think once one

chain does it, the other one really has to follow," he said. Gabelli noted, though, that Rite Aid may be less likely to do so because it hasn't made the same in-store investment in clinics as the other chains.

Either way, the move by CVS highlights the pressure companies that sell tobacco are facing to kick that habit 480,000 deaths a year in the U.S., according to the Food and Drug Administration.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Feb. 7)	\$1.3966
Dollar buys (Feb. 7)	€0.7160
British pound (Feb. 7)	\$1.67
Japanese yen (Feb. 7)	¥99.00
South Korean won (Feb. 7)	₩1,049.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.6321/6.127
Canada (dollar)	1.1094
China (Yuan)	6.0605
Denmark (Krone)	5.4844
Egypt (Pound)	6.6339
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3607/7.349
Euro	1.0178
Germany (Euro)	2.2659
Israel (Shekel)	3.5393
Japan (Yen)	101.78
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2824
Norway (Krone)	6.1945
Philippines (Peso)	45.16
Poland (Zloty)	3.08
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2679
South Korea (Won)	1,077.54
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8990
Thailand (Baht)	32.80
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2176

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, etc.), rates which your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.65

### EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.529	\$3.712	\$3.888	\$4.188
Change in price	-0.3 cents	+0.1 cents	-0.3 cents	+4.7 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.612	\$4.900	\$4.953
Change in price	---	-4.7 cents	-5.0 cents	-5.1 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.647	\$3.823	\$4.123
Change in price	---	-0.1 cents	-0.3 cents	+4.7 cents
Azores	---	---	---	---
Change in price	---	---	---	---
Belgium	---	\$4.851	\$4.006	\$4.266
Change in price	---	-2.5 cents	-2.3 cents	-2.1 cents
Turkey	---	---	\$4.445	\$4.056*
Change in price	---	---	---	+4.7 cents
Italy	---	---	---	---
Change in price	\$3.95	---	---	---
	no change	---	---	---

### PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.649	---	\$3.949
Change in price	---	no change	---	+5.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.459	---	---	\$3.949
Change in price	-2.0 cents	---	---	+5.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.546	---	\$3.909	\$4.209
Change in price	no change	---	no change	+5.0 cents
Guam	\$3.539*	\$3.719	\$3.899	---
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	---

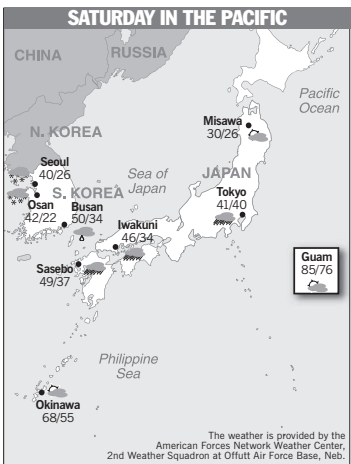
\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Feb. 8-15

### MARKET WATCH

Feb. 5, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-5.01
	15,440.23
Nasdaq composite	-19.97
	4,011.55
Standard & Poor's 500	-3.56
	1,751.64
Russell 2000	-9.25
	1,093.59

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

### Friday's US temperatures

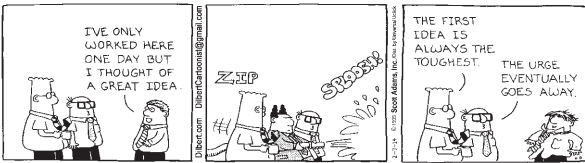
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	46	26	Cldy	Fort Wayne	11	-7	Cldy	Louisville	24	9	Cldy	Pocatello	32	14	Snow	Slou City	18	-5	Cldy
Ablene, Tex	37	15	Cldy	Cheyenne	33	-2	Cldy	Fresno	59	39	Cldy	Lubbock	40	15	Cldy	Portland, Maine	25	9	Snow	Slou City	18	-5	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	14	-2	Pcldy	Cincinnati	13	-4	Pcldy	Goodland	19	-2	Cldy	Macon	56	30	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	30	18	Cldy	South Bend	12	-5	Cldy
Albuquerque	42	28	Cldy	Cleveland	12	-1	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	13	3	Snow	Madison	15	-8	Pcldy	Providence	39	13	Cldy	Spokane	17	2	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	27	12	Cldy	Colorado Springs	37	6	Cldy	Great Falls	15	-10	Cldy	Memphis	32	17	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	49	34	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	13	-7	Pcldy
Anchorage	31	12	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	53	33	Pcldy	Green Bay	13	-7	Pcldy	Miami Beach	82	70	Pcldy	Rapid City	21	-10	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	24	2	Cldy
Asheville	46	24	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	57	31	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	48	31	Cldy	Milwaukee	15	-5	Pcldy	Richmond	47	28	Pcldy	Tampa	73	57	Cldy
Atlanta	53	30	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	23	2	Pcldy	Hartford	27	14	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	12	-6	Cir	Rochester	47	27	Pcldy	Toledo	17	2	Cldy
Atlantic City	35	16	Cldy	Corpus Christi	46	39	Cldy	Helena	18	-12	Cldy	Missoula	18	0	Snow	Rockford	17	7	Pcldy	Topeka	18	-6	Cldy
Austin	26	10	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	35	20	Cldy	Honolulu	80	63	Cldy	Mobile	80	63	Cldy	San Antonio	42	31	Cldy	Tucson	64	42	Pcldy
Baltimore	36	21	Cldy	Dayton	15	-1	Pcldy	Houston	44	33	Cldy	Montgomery	54	28	Cldy	Sacramento	57	40	Cldy	Tulsa	29	7	Cldy
Baton Rouge	52	29	Cldy	Daytona Beach	71	54	Cldy	Huntsville	45	23	Cldy	Nashville	32	16	Cldy	St. Louis	17	-1	Cldy	Tupelo	38	20	Cldy
Bilings	16	-10	Cldy	Denver	12	0	Cldy	Indianapolis	14	-3	Pcldy	New Orleans	32	35	Cldy	St. Petersburg	72	59	Cldy	Waco	38	22	Cldy
Birmingham	49	27	Pcldy	Des Moines	14	-5	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	47	23	Cldy	New York City	29	17	Cldy	St. Thomas	78	77	Rain	Washington	39	24	Cldy
Bismarck	11	-7	Cldy	Detroit	12	-3	Pcldy	Jacksonville	60	48	Cldy	Newark	30	17	Cldy	Salt Lake City	42	28	Snow	W. Palm Beach	80	67	Cldy
Boise	32	23	Snow	El Paso	56	36	Cldy	Juneau	31	15	Pcldy	Norfolk, Va.	43	31	Cldy	Salt Lake City	42	28	Snow	Wichita Falls	33	15	Cldy
Boston	27	13	Cldy	El Paso	56	36	Cldy	Kansas City	16	-6	Cldy	North Platte	19	-7	Cldy	San Diego	62	47	Cldy	Wichita Falls	33	15	Cldy
Bridgeport	26	10	Cldy	Elkins	31	15	Cldy	Key West	80	73	Cldy	Okahoma City	29	10	Snow	San Francisco	58	47	Cldy	Wilmington, Del.	32	17	Cldy
Brownsville	52	42	Cldy	Erie	13	4	Cldy	Knoxville	45	25	Pcldy	Omaha	15	-4	Cldy	San Jose	63	46	Cldy	Yonkers	21	7	Cldy
Buffalo	15	7	Cldy	Eugene	33	22	Cldy	Lake Charles	49	28	Cldy	Orlando	75	55	Cldy	San Jose	63	46	Cldy	Youngstown	14	-1	Pcldy
Burlington, Vt.	22	9	Cldy	Evansville	20	4	Cldy	Lansing	11	0	Pcldy	Paducah	24	6	Cldy	Seattle	57	41	Cldy				
Caribou, Maine	19	2	Cldy	Fairbanks	0	-10	Cir	Las Vegas	60	43	Pcldy	Pendleton	20	11	Cldy	Seattle	57	41	Cldy				
Charleston, S.C.	55	38	Cldy	Fargo	2	8	Cir	Lexington	26	11	Cldy	Peoria	12	-9	Cldy	Shreveport	40	25	Cldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	34	20	Cldy	Flagstaff	36	22	Cldy	Lincoln	16	-6	Cldy	Philadelphia	31	18	Cldy								
Charlotte, N.C.	52	31	Cldy	Flint	12	-2	Pcldy	Little Rock	32	17	Cldy	Phoenix	65	48	Cldy								
				Fort Smith	32	17	Cldy	Los Angeles	63	51	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	21	6	Cldy								

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Wed., 87, Vero Beach, Fla.  
Lo: Wed., -35, Utica, Mont.

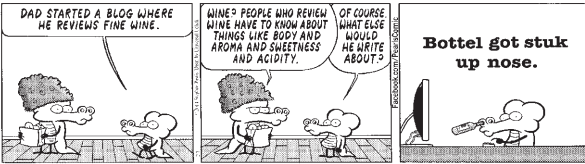
Frazz



Dilbert



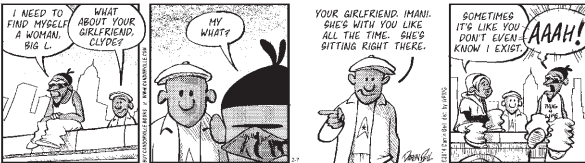
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



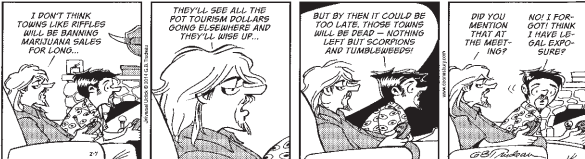
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



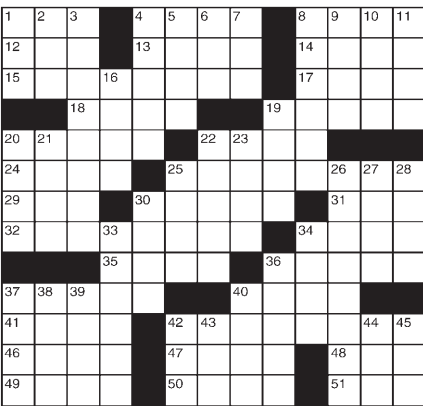
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



### ACROSS

- 1 Moment
- 4 Basketball's Lamar
- 8 Imperfection
- 12 Savings plan acronym
- 13 Stare stupidly
- 14 Apiece
- 15 Agent of change
- 17 Tragic
- 18 Dogfight participants
- 19 Lisa of "The Cosby Show"
- 20 Helen's abductor
- 22 Gloomy
- 24 "Zounds!"
- 25 Garrison lodgings
- 29 Year-end abbr.
- 30 Mephistopheles
- 31 Actress Ortiz
- 32 Constantinople, now
- 34 Teeny bit
- 35 Verse
- 36 Lessen
- 37 Violinist's stroke
- 40 Oil cartel
- 41 Punch
- 42 Lists
- 46 Indulge in vogueing
- 47 Spinning sound
- 48 Cattle call
- 49 Eyelid woe
- 50 Diplomacy
- 51 Engage in pugilism

### DOWN

- 1 (Uncorrected)
- 2 Geological period
- 3 Eye problem
- 4 Looks lasciviously
- 5 "— of Our Lives"
- 6 Chances, for short
- 7 Encountered
- 8 Soft felt hat
- 9 Reclined
- 10 Farm fraction
- 11 Shapen
- 16 Base neutralizer
- 19 Singe
- 20 Mani counterpart
- 21 Mellows
- 22 Piece of information
- 23 Exam format
- 25 Infant
- 26 Subterranean cemetery
- 27 Entanglement
- 28 Unaltered
- 30 Frosty's makeup
- 33 High point
- 34 First victim
- 36 In two places at once?
- 37 Snail mail org.
- 38 Basis of a whodunit
- 39 Active
- 40 Ear-related
- 42 100 lbs.
- 43 "Eureka!"
- 44 Slickum
- 45 Red or White square

### Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-7

### CRYPTOQUIP

OVKC KSNHL K RHC DGN ZJVL  
GJ PJJUU LN SJ LGJ FNAL  
ALBQEL: "LGJ QFONBLKPEJ  
NZ SJQPR ALJBPJAL."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE I'M USING MY LEGS TO PLAY A PRACTICAL JOKE, YOU MIGHT SAY THAT'S JUST AN ARMLESS PRANK.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

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Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

## TSA chose giggles over finding guns

By MARTIN SCHRAM  
 McClatchy-Tribune News Service

**T**his was the week when America's airline passengers got our sweet revenge. It happened right before our eyes.

We saw a federal bureaucratic body known as the Transportation Security Administration get summarily shoved through a high-tech machine (in this case, just a word processing computer). Then one of its own former body image screeners did to his ex-bosses what he and his colleagues had done to us for several years: He stripped that bureaucratic body starlings. Suddenly, its bare-naked "T-S-A" was just dangling out there, no longer covered up by years of phony promises and flawed practices. This past week, the TSA's inadequacy was exposed for all the world to see.

It was not a pretty sight, and certainly not a comforting one.

On Jan. 31, former TSA security screener Jason Edward Harrington wrote a magazine article for Washington's agenda-setting online news organization Politico.com that exposed as blithering failures — and privacy invaders — those original TSA full-body scanning machines. And a number of the TSA folks who ran those machines that, since 2007, had been stripping airline passengers down to their anatomically accurate nude, X-ray-like images. Harrington, who worked at Chicago's O'Hare Airport from 2007 until last year, unsubtly titled his Politico.com article "Dear America, I Saw You Naked — And yes, we were laughing. Confession: I'm a TSA agent."

But the article's most damning revelation was not the bare-naked titillation that filled most of our old media's coverage of Harrington's confessions. Nor the TSA

gang's frat-house shenanigans, as they'd gather in the Image Operator's Room to gawk and crudely joke about our images on the screens. "Piercings of every kind were visible," he wrote.

No, the article's most unforgivable revelation was that the TSA put us through all of that even though it knew its Advanced Imaging Technology machines could reveal everything about a person's body — except, maybe, his or her concealed weapon.

"We knew the full-body scanners didn't work before they were even installed," Harrington wrote. Indeed, when his training class instructor was asked for his off-the-record opinion of the machines, the trainer said: "They're (naughty word deleted)." Harrington wrote: "He said we wouldn't be able to distinguish plastic explosives from body fat and that guns were practically invisible if they were turned sideways in a pocket."

Actually, the TSA knew a lot more. In 2010, I wrote two columns about an alternative technology that would invade no one's privacy — except maybe the privacy of someone sneaking a weapon through security. I called it automatic Target Recognition (ATR), software for detecting contraband items on a person. And it wasn't just theoretical — it was being used every day in Amsterdam's Schiphol International Airport.

It was much like the TSA's machines — with one crucial difference: Instead of producing an anatomically accurate X-ray image of a passenger, the ATR only shows a chalk-like outline of a generic human body (like the ones cops draw on sidewalks at crime scenes). If the machine detected a concealed weapon or suspicious item, a

yellow box appeared over that spot on the white-outlined body. Then the passenger was escorted to a non-public tap-down.

But in 2010, the TSA was dismissive of this technology solution to the privacy invasion — even when several U.S. senators urged it after seeing it operate in Amsterdam. Finally, they enacted a law requiring all imaging be done by the ATR chalk-outline software. After spending more than \$80 million, TSA installed new machines with ATR software at all airports.

Today, the TSA's machines show the chalk-like generic body — instead of your real one. And yes, the imaging features the telltale yellow box alert.

Now we get it. When those government officials kept promising you "transparency," they were only talking about your clothing. Not their promises and practices.

After Harrington's article had stripped the TSA bare — revealed it to be just another example of wasteful spending and disregard to the rights of ordinary citizens — the TSA's Dickensian-named administrator, John Pistole, went on NBC's "Nightly News." But he didn't deny the article's disclosures. His message was that his TSA's past is no longer a fitting prologue. Grown-up kids who once played cops and robbers may remember how, after they were "shot" dead, they would simply jump up and say "I'm a new man!" and continue playing the game. So too with this game.

"There is a new TSA in town doing things 180 degrees differently than what he alleges was done," Pistole said. He added: "We're going to take a more professional conduct of officers, if proven."

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive.

## Marrying your equal can boost inequality

By PETER ORSZAG  
 Bloomberg News

**R**ich and poor Americans are slowly but surely staking out separate lives. Increasingly, they have been moving to different communities, and more frequently they are also marrying people of similar income and educational backgrounds. This is a phenomenon social scientists call assortative mating.

In 2005, 58 percent of wives with a high school diploma were married to men with the same amount of education, too. In 2005, 43 percent of wives with college degrees were married to men who also had college degrees. In 1960, the share was 33 percent.

What are the effects of this increased marital sorting? For one thing, it contributes to income inequality. If marriages occurred randomly across educational categories, Greenwood and his co-authors show, the Gini coefficient for household income in the U.S. in 2005 would decline to

0.34 from 0.43. (The coefficient falls as inequality decreases.) That would more than offset the entire increase in inequality that has occurred since the late 1960s. (This comparison is not entirely fair because even in the late 1960s, some assortative mating occurred. Nonetheless, it shows how large the effect is.)

Marital sorting also affects women's participation in the workforce. Since the 1970s, the correlation between the wages of husband and wife has doubled, Christian Bredemeier and Falko Juessen of the University of Dortmund found. Over the same period, wives of high-income men have increased their working hours more than wives of low-income husbands have.

In the 1970s, wives with high-earning husbands tended to work fewer hours than other wives did. Assortative mating changed the pattern.

Finally, marital sorting may be having some effect on geographical mobility. Cross-state mobility works best when falling in the United States, research by Raven Molloy and Christopher Smith of the Federal Reserve and Abigail Wozniak of the University of Notre Dame has found.

In my role on the boards of nonprofits, I have seen many job offers declined because a move would be required, and the person's spouse would have to leave behind a promising career. Because finding two good jobs in a new city is much harder

than finding just one, it is possible that this "co-location problem" for dual-earning couples with increasingly similar incomes and educational backgrounds is discouraging mobility.

Well-educated couples tend to live in large cities because it increases the chance that both spouses can find an adequate job, research by Costa Costa of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Matthew Kahn of the University of California, Los Angeles suggests. Another piece of evidence comes from the cross-state mobility rates themselves. Since the 1980s, they have fallen almost by half among dual-earning couples, while the rate for single (or no) earners has fallen by only a third. Yet Molloy finds some evidence that these differential trends have had only a modest effect on total mobility rates (after other factors are taken into account).

In any case, assortative mating indicates why trying to bridge the increasing divides between rich and poor in the U.S. is so complicated and difficult. If income inequality is being driven in part by changes in marriage patterns, what can anyone do about that?

Peter Orszag is vice chairman of corporate and investment banking and chairman of the financial strategy and solutions group at Citigroup and a former director of the Office of Management and Budget in the Obama administration.

## Tell us what you think

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# OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### US can do more to stop Assad

#### The Washington Post

President Barack Obama has adopted the position that any U.S. intervention in Syria would be ineffective, "short of us being willing to undertake an effort in size and scope similar to what we did in Iraq." His aides regularly accuse those who critique U.S. policy — which currently consists of donations of humanitarian aid and a feeble attempt to promote peace negotiations — of favoring another Middle East war.

In reality, the U.S. has a number of options for action in Syria that would be more robust than the current policy but fall well short of the use of U.S. ground forces. They might not bring the Syrian civil war to a quick end, but they could address several major challenges, including the horrific war crimes being committed by the regime of Bashar Assad, the dire humanitarian crisis affecting several parts of the country and the growing power of Islamic extremist forces.

The first and simplest step would be for the Obama administration to back a resolution being developed by Britain and other allies in the U.N. Security Council. It would call for greater humanitarian aid deliveries to areas now cut off because of military sieges and authorize U.N. agencies to work in areas not under government control. More than 200,000 people in the Damascus suburbs and the city of Homs are being deliberately starved of food and medicine for generations, which is a war crime. The Security Council, in particular, regime defenders such as Russia — should be forced to cast a vote for or against ending this abomination.

Whether the resolution is approved or not, the Obama administration could take action to end the blockades and other crimes, such as the regime's ongoing practice of dropping "barrel bombs" from helicopters on civilian housing, hospitals and schools. These weapons are filled with nails, pieces of metal and other junk intended to inflict maximum damage on civilians. The administration could tell the Assad regime and Russia that if the atrocities do not stop, Obama will order missile strikes against facilities that carry out and support them, such as helicopter bases. Given the regime's reaction when Obama threatened such action last summer, it might relent; if not, the administration's blockade could be significantly degraded.

Obama has disparaged the al-Qaida threat in Syria, calling it a "JV team." U.S. intelligence agencies apparently disagree. Last week the director of national intelligence, James Clapper, told Congress that Syrian al-Qaida forces inspired by Osama bin Laden are active in the region and compared the areas under the terrorists' control to Pakistan's tribal territories.

Obama could address this threat by returning to a plan he embraced and then dropped last year: accelerating the arming and training of moderate opposition forces. The administration's emphasis on the failing Geneva peace talks has obscured the reality that fighting on the ground is likely to determine Syria's near-term future as well as any eventual settlement.

### Right time to support Ukraine

#### (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

Russian President Vladimir Putin must be understandably tense about now. The Winter Olympics, on which he has staked his government's prestige and \$51 billion



These workers at Volkswagen's only U.S. factory — in Chattanooga, Tenn. — will decide this month whether to be represented by the United Auto Workers union.

of its money, are about to begin in a locale notable for its proximity to an area infested by terrorists who have vowed to disrupt the games.

Longer term, his plans to haul Ukraine back into the Russian orbit show signs of unraveling. Last fall, Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich was on the verge of signing a political and economic deal with the European Union, one that had considerable popular support. At the last second, he reneged after Russia threatened economic reprisals if Yanukovich signed. Yanukovich caved, and his countrymen took to the streets in the thousands. A heavy-handed attempt at a crackdown only riled the protesters, further causing them to up their demands. Putin's Kremlin postponed indefinitely the next installment of a \$15 billion aid package, slowed Ukraine's exports to Russia, its largest trading partner, to a crawl and threatened to cut off its natural gas supplies. ...

The European Union, with U.S. help, must make good on its promise of aid and commit to make up for any trade sanctions the Russians impose. The West has a rare opportunity to be of genuine help to a country that has been treated badly by history and even worse by the Kremlin.

### Legal homophobia can't stand

#### Los Angeles Times

A disturbing new law in Nigeria establishes sweeping restrictions on homosexuality and has already led to dozens of arrests.

Even before the law went into effect, it was illegal to engage in same-sex relations. But the new law goes further, prohibiting civil unions and same-sex marriages and threatening to slap a 10-year prison sentence on anyone who officiates at such a marriage. The law bans public displays of affection between people of the same sex, outlaws gay support organizations and makes it illegal for gay groups to meet. In a country with the world's third-largest number of people living with HIV or AIDS, the law could put serious obstacles in the way of health groups going outreach to gay populations and possibly even outlaw programs providing education on HIV prevention.

As U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said, rarely has there been legislation "that in so few paragraphs directly violates so many basic, universal human rights."

Africa is notoriously homophobic; 38 countries on the continent ban same-sex relations. Many of those bans are based on colonial-era sodomy laws, while others derive their authority from Islamic law or other religious and socially conservative ideologies. The initial version of Uganda's infamous anti-gay bill — which was not

ultimately enacted — would have authorized the death penalty for some repeat offenders.

But Africa is not alone. Less draconian but still unjustifiable is the Russian ban on giving "propaganda" (otherwise known as information) about gay relationships to minors. ...

Such laws violate human rights. But it is worth noting that state sodomy laws were still enforceable in the U.S. as recently as 2003, when the Supreme Court issued its landmark decision in Lawrence v. Texas. And only in the last decade has U.S. public opinion shifted from disapproving of gay marriage to supporting it. Ironically — and shamefully — some conservative evangelical Christians who lost ground with their anti-gay gospel here have exported it to African countries, including Uganda.

No one has the moral high ground. Every country must work harder to create tolerant societies that respect the rights of all.

### Drink in society's changes

#### Aniston (Ala.) Star

Social media was aflame with conservatives red-hot over a Super Bowl ad by Coca-Cola. A rendition of "America the Beautiful" sung in multiple languages and featuring a culturally diverse group of Americans inspired anger and threats of a boycott from the right.

A couple of reactions: ■ Coca-Cola is in the business of selling soft drinks to consumers across the globe. It doesn't take its marketing lightly, carefully honing ads to appeal to the widest audience possible. If a Coke ad leaves a viewer unhappy, there's a good chance he or she is on the wrong side of history.

■ This overheated response sheds light on why Republicans have had difficulty creating an immigration policy. Demographics and changing public attitudes lead in one direction while a hard-core conservative wing of the nation that mostly votes with the Republican Party refuses to budge.

Health experts tell us increased consumption of sugary drinks is a leading contributor to the U.S. obesity crisis. We note with some irony that a boycott — as ill-considered and unproductive as it might be — could make the nation healthier.

### Obamacare shown to cost jobs

#### Boston Herald

When it comes to Obamacare, the bad news train keeps rolling.

A stunning report from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office this week more than tripled the number of American who, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, will likely be out of the workforce by 2024, from the equivalent of 800,000 full-time workers to 2.5 million.

"CBO estimates that the ACA will reduce

the total number of hours worked, on net, by about 1.5 to 2 percent during the period from 2017 to 2024, almost entirely because workers will choose to supply less labor — given the new taxes and other incentives they will face and the financial benefits some will receive," the report notes.

Since taxpayer subsidies to purchase insurance will shrink and premiums rise with workers' incomes, there will be a disincentive for some individuals to work more, the report notes. Expanded eligibility for Medicaid is a similar disincentive. Meanwhile the financial penalty paid by larger employers who don't provide adequate coverage to workers is likely to chill working hours, too.

And what price the dysfunctional Obamacare website? CBO projects 2 million fewer Americans will enroll in health insurance plans via the exchanges or the Medicaid program this year than projected, thanks to the site's "significant technical problems."

Of course the ostriches who occupy the White House continue living in a state of denial. They are touting the CBO's projections as a good thing, arguing the 2.5 million are really just exercising a personal choice to, say, "spend more time with their families."

"This is all about choices created by the availability of quality, affordable health insurance," White House spokesman Jay Carney said. Unemployment as just another appealing choice. Well, that's a new one for Democrats.

### Give US workers good footing

#### New News

On Feb. 12-14, Volkswagen workers in Chattanooga, Tenn., will vote in an election that could drastically change the future of U.S. labor-management relations. VW workers will be deciding whether to join the United Auto Workers and establish their country's first works council.

With growing concern about health care, workplace safety and temporary, low-wage jobs, there is no doubt that the American work force wants to see a change in 2014. The question is whether we will address our challenges collaboratively.

U.S. unions and companies have a history of working against each other, but co-operation has long been the German way. In Germany, work councils are a unique model of collaboration between workers and employers that simply doesn't exist in the U.S. yet. Works councils and the German system of co-determination demonstrate how company management and a strong union can partner and thrive.

Volkswagen values the collaboration it has with its workers, their unions and works councils, and credits those relationships with much of its success. Unlike many employers in the U.S., who fight fiercely against workers' organizations, Volkswagen has taken the courageous position of letting workers in Chattanooga decide for themselves. ...

Unions have long been a ladder to the middle class and the UAW and the domestic automakers have helped fuel the American dream. Through collective bargaining agreements that created tens of thousands of jobs in communities across the country. For example, when the plant in Spring Hill, Tenn., closed as part of GM's bankruptcy, the UAW stepped in to negotiate the reopening of the plant. The agreement resulted in a \$350 million investment in the state.

Unfortunately, some politicians and special interest groups choose to ignore the success a union has already brought to Tennessee and other states. Their attack campaign is a direct attack on the right to organize. The result is to have a works council and to choose representation belongs to the workers. ...

If we place value in our society on democracy and fairness in the workplace, we must value those employers that allow workers to choose representation in a free and fair environment, and condemn politicians that step in the way.

# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFSN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. [myafn.net](http://myafn.net)

## Tennis

### Royal Guard Open

**Wednesday**  
**At Club Naval de Campo Las Salinas**  
**Vina del Mar, Chile**  
**Surface: Hard**  
**First Round**  
 Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Gonzalo Lama, Chile, 6-3, 6-0  
 Jeremy Chardy (5), France, def. Christian Garrin, Chile, 7-5, 6-0  
**Second Round**  
 Leonardo Mayer, Argentina, def. Tommy Robredo (2), Spain, 3-6, 7-6 (8), 6-4  
 Guillermo Garcia-Lopez (7), Spain, def. Paolo Lorenzi, Italy, 6-3, 6-0  
 Santiago Giraldo, Colombia, def. Marcel Granollers (4), Spain, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (2)

### Open Sud de France

**Wednesday**  
**At Arena Montpellier**  
**Montpellier, France**  
**Surface: Hard**  
**First Round**  
 Joao Sousa, Portugal, def. Tobias Kammerling, Germany, def. 6-4, 6-3  
 Aleksandr Nedovyesov, Kazakhstan, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4  
 Michel Mouton (5), France, def. Lukas Kubot, Portugal, 6-4, 4-6, 6-3  
 Austin Brash, Germany, def. Teymuraz Gabashvili, Russia, 4-6, 7-6 (1), 6-1  
 David Goffin, Belgium, def. Benjamin Benneteau (8), France, 7-6 (1), 6-3  
 Def. Michal Przyslyzny, Poland, 7-6 (3), 6-3

### Zagreb Indoors

**Wednesday**  
**At Dom Sportova**  
**Zagreb, Croatia**  
**Surface: Hard**  
**First Round**  
 Daniel Evans, Britain, def. Jan Hajek, Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-1  
 Dudi Sela, Israel, def. Lukas Rosol (6), Czech Republic, 7-6 (2)  
 Andrey Golubev, Kazakhstan, def. Victor Olmos (8), Romania, 7-6 (6), 6-3  
 Andrey Kuznetsov, Russia, def. Sergiy Stakhovsky, Ukraine, 6-4, 7-6 (8)  
 Katic, Slovenia, 6-7 (4), 6-3, 6-0  
**Second Round**  
 Marin Cilic, Croatia, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 6-4, 7-5

### College basketball

**Wednesday's men's games**  
**FAST**  
 Albany (NY) 73, Mass.-Lowell 56  
 Army 70, Lehigh 51  
 Buffalo 61, Navy 48  
 Delaware 67, Col. of Charleston 64  
 George Washington 71, Duquesne 57  
 Loyola (Md.) 66, Bucknell 58  
 Loyola (Md.) 62, American U. 58  
 Northeastern 81, Hofstra 72  
 Philadelphia 75, Wilmington (Del.) 64  
 Saint Joseph's 66, Saint Joseph's 66  
 Susquehanna 100,oucher 97, 20T  
 UMBEC 58, New Hampshire 57  
 UMass 79, La Salle 67  
 West Virginia 91, Oklahoma 86, 20T  
**SOUTH**  
 Auburn 79, South Carolina 74  
 80, Bluefield 57, 86  
 Clayton 71, GRU Augusta 67  
 Dayton 84, George Mason 67  
 Florida 50, Virginia Tech 58  
 Gannon 59, Slippery Rock 56  
 High Point 77, Coastal Carolina 74  
 King 78, 66, Erskine 49  
 Lincoln-Rhyme 67, Coker 58  
 Lynchburg 86, Hampden-Sydney 84  
 Maryland 71, Tenn. 79, Covenant 49  
 North Carolina 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Montevallo 77, Georgia College 66  
 Missouri 66, Pfeiffer 65  
 Penn State 59, Miami 55  
 Quinn 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Queens (NC) 77, Catawba 67  
 Richmond 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Randolph 71, Emory & Henry 62  
 Raleigh-Macon 76, Bridgewater (Va.) 56  
 Richmond 64, St. Bonaventure 62  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Tusculum 80, Anderson (SC) 73  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Union (Ky.) 101, Penn. (Ga.) 74  
 VMI 108, Longwood 104, 40T  
 Wake Forest 64, Tennessee 66  
 William 77, Boston College 66  
 50, St. Bonaventure 56  
 William & Mary 54, UNC Wilmington 50  
**MIDWEST**  
 Adrian at Trent 66  
 Akron 52, E. Michigan 48  
 Alabama at Albion, pdd.  
 Ball State 79, Ripon 75  
 Central Michigan 78, Kent St. 73  
 Cleveland State 66, Aquinas 66  
 Davenport 60, Michigan-Dearborn 39  
 E. Monmouth 85, Va. Wesleyan 82, 0T  
 Eastern Bay St. Ill., Chicago 50  
 Gustavus 64, Macalester 54  
 Indiana 62, Duquesne 54  
 86, Calvin 65  
 Michigan State 66, Iowa 65  
 Madonna 63, Lawrence Tech 59  
 Michigan 79, Nebraska 50  
 Milwaukee 66, Wisconsin 77, Marian (W.) 66  
 Missouri 62, Evansville 54  
 Nebraska-Omaha 68, Peru 62, 30T  
 Northern Illinois 71, Concordia (Mich.) 67, 77, Minnesota 74, 30T  
 St. John's (Minn.) 83, Augsburg 71  
 St. Norbert 79, Lawrence 69  
 UI of 68, Concordia (Mo.) 57  
 St. Thomas (Minn.) 65, Bethel (Minn.) 56  
**WEST**  
 Toledo 83, Bowling Green 76  
 Belmont 68, Cleveland 58  
 W. Michigan 90, Ohio 74  
 Wichita 55, Indiana 58  
 Butler 87, Lakeland 78  
 Wis.-La Crosse 64, Wis.-River Falls 63  
 Wis.-Oshkosh 66, Wis.-Platteville 56  
 Wis.-Superior 70, Wis.-Eau Claire 62  
 Whitewater 81, Wis.-Stevens Pl. 76, 0T  
 Wright St. 77, Youngstown St. 67  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 Angelo St. 69, W. Texas A&M 47  
 Arkansas 66, Alabama 38  
 Louisville 77, Houston 62  
 Loyola (Calif.) 63, Mississippi St. 52  
 Texas A&M Commerce 89, Cameron 79  
**FAR WEST**  
 Colorado 68, Washington St. 63  
 Fresno State 68, UNLV 57  
 Fresno St. 68, Air Force 51  
 Gonzaga 68, Gonzaga 68  
 New Mexico 66, Wyoming 61, 0T  
 San Diego State 67, Santa Clara 55  
 Stanford 80, California 69  
 Utah St. 83, Nevada 75

### College basketball

**Wednesday's men's games**  
**FAST**  
 Albany (NY) 73, Mass.-Lowell 56  
 Army 70, Lehigh 51  
 Buffalo 61, Navy 48  
 Delaware 67, Col. of Charleston 64  
 George Washington 71, Duquesne 57  
 Loyola (Md.) 66, Bucknell 58  
 Loyola (Md.) 62, American U. 58  
 Northeastern 81, Hofstra 72  
 Philadelphia 75, Wilmington (Del.) 64  
 Saint Joseph's 66, Saint Joseph's 66  
 Susquehanna 100,oucher 97, 20T  
 UMBEC 58, New Hampshire 57  
 UMass 79, La Salle 67  
 West Virginia 91, Oklahoma 86, 20T  
**SOUTH**  
 Auburn 79, South Carolina 74  
 80, Bluefield 57, 86  
 Clayton 71, GRU Augusta 67  
 Dayton 84, George Mason 67  
 Florida 50, Virginia Tech 58  
 Gannon 59, Slippery Rock 56  
 High Point 77, Coastal Carolina 74  
 King 78, 66, Erskine 49  
 Lincoln-Rhyme 67, Coker 58  
 Lynchburg 86, Hampden-Sydney 84  
 Maryland 71, Tenn. 79, Covenant 49  
 North Carolina 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Montevallo 77, Georgia College 66  
 Missouri 66, Pfeiffer 65  
 Penn State 59, Miami 55  
 Quinn 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Queens (NC) 77, Catawba 67  
 Richmond 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Randolph 71, Emory & Henry 62  
 Raleigh-Macon 76, Bridgewater (Va.) 56  
 Richmond 64, St. Bonaventure 62  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Tusculum 80, Anderson (SC) 73  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Union (Ky.) 101, Penn. (Ga.) 74  
 VMI 108, Longwood 104, 40T  
 Wake Forest 64, Tennessee 66  
 William 77, Boston College 66  
 50, St. Bonaventure 56  
 William & Mary 54, UNC Wilmington 50  
**MIDWEST**  
 Adrian at Trent 66  
 Akron 52, E. Michigan 48  
 Alabama at Albion, pdd.  
 Ball State 79, Ripon 75  
 Central Michigan 78, Kent St. 73  
 Cleveland State 66, Aquinas 66  
 Davenport 60, Michigan-Dearborn 39  
 E. Monmouth 85, Va. Wesleyan 82, 0T  
 Eastern Bay St. Ill., Chicago 50  
 Gustavus 64, Macalester 54  
 Indiana 62, Duquesne 54  
 86, Calvin 65  
 Michigan State 66, Iowa 65  
 Madonna 63, Lawrence Tech 59  
 Michigan 79, Nebraska 50  
 Milwaukee 66, Wisconsin 77, Marian (W.) 66  
 Missouri 62, Evansville 54  
 Nebraska-Omaha 68, Peru 62, 30T  
 Northern Illinois 71, Concordia (Mich.) 67, 77, Minnesota 74, 30T  
 St. John's (Minn.) 83, Augsburg 71  
 St. Norbert 79, Lawrence 69  
 UI of 68, Concordia (Mo.) 57  
 St. Thomas (Minn.) 65, Bethel (Minn.) 56  
**WEST**  
 Toledo 83, Bowling Green 76  
 Belmont 68, Cleveland 58  
 W. Michigan 90, Ohio 74  
 Wichita 55, Indiana 58  
 Butler 87, Lakeland 78  
 Wis.-La Crosse 64, Wis.-River Falls 63  
 Wis.-Oshkosh 66, Wis.-Platteville 56  
 Wis.-Superior 70, Wis.-Eau Claire 62  
 Whitewater 81, Wis.-Stevens Pl. 76, 0T  
 Wright St. 77, Youngstown St. 67  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 Angelo St. 69, W. Texas A&M 47  
 Arkansas 66, Alabama 38  
 Louisville 77, Houston 62  
 Loyola (Calif.) 63, Mississippi St. 52  
 Texas A&M Commerce 89, Cameron 79  
**FAR WEST**  
 Colorado 68, Washington St. 63  
 Fresno State 68, UNLV 57  
 Fresno St. 68, Air Force 51  
 Gonzaga 68, Gonzaga 68  
 New Mexico 66, Wyoming 61, 0T  
 San Diego State 67, Santa Clara 55  
 Stanford 80, California 69  
 Utah St. 83, Nevada 75

### College basketball

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**FAST**  
 Albany (NY) 73, Mass.-Lowell 56  
 Army 70, Lehigh 51  
 Buffalo 61, Navy 48  
 Delaware 67, Col. of Charleston 64  
 George Washington 71, Duquesne 57  
 Loyola (Md.) 66, Bucknell 58  
 Loyola (Md.) 62, American U. 58  
 Northeastern 81, Hofstra 72  
 Philadelphia 75, Wilmington (Del.) 64  
 Saint Joseph's 66, Saint Joseph's 66  
 Susquehanna 100,oucher 97, 20T  
 UMBEC 58, New Hampshire 57  
 UMass 79, La Salle 67  
 West Virginia 91, Oklahoma 86, 20T  
**SOUTH**  
 Auburn 79, South Carolina 74  
 80, Bluefield 57, 86  
 Clayton 71, GRU Augusta 67  
 Dayton 84, George Mason 67  
 Florida 50, Virginia Tech 58  
 Gannon 59, Slippery Rock 56  
 High Point 77, Coastal Carolina 74  
 King 78, 66, Erskine 49  
 Lincoln-Rhyme 67, Coker 58  
 Lynchburg 86, Hampden-Sydney 84  
 Maryland 71, Tenn. 79, Covenant 49  
 North Carolina 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Montevallo 77, Georgia College 66  
 Missouri 66, Pfeiffer 65  
 Penn State 59, Miami 55  
 Quinn 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Queens (NC) 77, Catawba 67  
 Richmond 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Randolph 71, Emory & Henry 62  
 Raleigh-Macon 76, Bridgewater (Va.) 56  
 Richmond 64, St. Bonaventure 62  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Tusculum 80, Anderson (SC) 73  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Union (Ky.) 101, Penn. (Ga.) 74  
 VMI 108, Longwood 104, 40T  
 Wake Forest 64, Tennessee 66  
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 Adrian at Trent 66  
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 Ball State 79, Ripon 75  
 Central Michigan 78, Kent St. 73  
 Cleveland State 66, Aquinas 66  
 Davenport 60, Michigan-Dearborn 39  
 E. Monmouth 85, Va. Wesleyan 82, 0T  
 Eastern Bay St. Ill., Chicago 50  
 Gustavus 64, Macalester 54  
 Indiana 62, Duquesne 54  
 86, Calvin 65  
 Michigan State 66, Iowa 65  
 Madonna 63, Lawrence Tech 59  
 Michigan 79, Nebraska 50  
 Milwaukee 66, Wisconsin 77, Marian (W.) 66  
 Missouri 62, Evansville 54  
 Nebraska-Omaha 68, Peru 62, 30T  
 Northern Illinois 71, Concordia (Mich.) 67, 77, Minnesota 74, 30T  
 St. John's (Minn.) 83, Augsburg 71  
 St. Norbert 79, Lawrence 69  
 UI of 68, Concordia (Mo.) 57  
 St. Thomas (Minn.) 65, Bethel (Minn.) 56  
**WEST**  
 Toledo 83, Bowling Green 76  
 Belmont 68, Cleveland 58  
 W. Michigan 90, Ohio 74  
 Wichita 55, Indiana 58  
 Butler 87, Lakeland 78  
 Wis.-La Crosse 64, Wis.-River Falls 63  
 Wis.-Oshkosh 66, Wis.-Platteville 56  
 Wis.-Superior 70, Wis.-Eau Claire 62  
 Whitewater 81, Wis.-Stevens Pl. 76, 0T  
 Wright St. 77, Youngstown St. 67  
**SOUTHWEST**  
 Angelo St. 69, W. Texas A&M 47  
 Arkansas 66, Alabama 38  
 Louisville 77, Houston 62  
 Loyola (Calif.) 63, Mississippi St. 52  
 Texas A&M Commerce 89, Cameron 79  
**FAR WEST**  
 Colorado 68, Washington St. 63  
 Fresno State 68, UNLV 57  
 Fresno St. 68, Air Force 51  
 Gonzaga 68, Gonzaga 68  
 New Mexico 66, Wyoming 61, 0T  
 San Diego State 67, Santa Clara 55  
 Stanford 80, California 69  
 Utah St. 83, Nevada 75

### College basketball

**Wednesday's men's games**  
**FAST**  
 Albany (NY) 73, Mass.-Lowell 56  
 Army 70, Lehigh 51  
 Buffalo 61, Navy 48  
 Delaware 67, Col. of Charleston 64  
 George Washington 71, Duquesne 57  
 Loyola (Md.) 66, Bucknell 58  
 Loyola (Md.) 62, American U. 58  
 Northeastern 81, Hofstra 72  
 Philadelphia 75, Wilmington (Del.) 64  
 Saint Joseph's 66, Saint Joseph's 66  
 Susquehanna 100,oucher 97, 20T  
 UMBEC 58, New Hampshire 57  
 UMass 79, La Salle 67  
 West Virginia 91, Oklahoma 86, 20T  
**SOUTH**  
 Auburn 79, South Carolina 74  
 80, Bluefield 57, 86  
 Clayton 71, GRU Augusta 67  
 Dayton 84, George Mason 67  
 Florida 50, Virginia Tech 58  
 Gannon 59, Slippery Rock 56  
 High Point 77, Coastal Carolina 74  
 King 78, 66, Erskine 49  
 Lincoln-Rhyme 67, Coker 58  
 Lynchburg 86, Hampden-Sydney 84  
 Maryland 71, Tenn. 79, Covenant 49  
 North Carolina 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Montevallo 77, Georgia College 66  
 Missouri 66, Pfeiffer 65  
 Penn State 59, Miami 55  
 Quinn 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Queens (NC) 77, Catawba 67  
 Richmond 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Randolph 71, Emory & Henry 62  
 Raleigh-Macon 76, Bridgewater (Va.) 56  
 Richmond 64, St. Bonaventure 62  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Tusculum 80, Anderson (SC) 73  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Union (Ky.) 101, Penn. (Ga.) 74  
 VMI 108, Longwood 104, 40T  
 Wake Forest 64, Tennessee 66  
 William 77, Boston College 66  
 50, St. Bonaventure 56  
 William & Mary 54, UNC Wilmington 50  
**MIDWEST**  
 Adrian at Trent 66  
 Akron 52, E. Michigan 48  
 Alabama at Albion, pdd.  
 Ball State 79, Ripon 75  
 Central Michigan 78, Kent St. 73  
 Cleveland State 66, Aquinas 66  
 Davenport 60, Michigan-Dearborn 39  
 E. Monmouth 85, Va. Wesleyan 82, 0T  
 Eastern Bay St. Ill., Chicago 50  
 Gustavus 64, Macalester 54  
 Indiana 62, Duquesne 54  
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 Michigan State 66, Iowa 65  
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 St. John's (Minn.) 83, Augsburg 71  
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 Arkansas 66, Alabama 38  
 Louisville 77, Houston 62  
 Loyola (Calif.) 63, Mississippi St. 52  
 Texas A&M Commerce 89, Cameron 79  
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 Colorado 68, Washington St. 63  
 Fresno State 68, UNLV 57  
 Fresno St. 68, Air Force 51  
 Gonzaga 68, Gonzaga 68  
 New Mexico 66, Wyoming 61, 0T  
 San Diego State 67, Santa Clara 55  
 Stanford 80, California 69  
 Utah St. 83, Nevada 75

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 George Washington 71, Duquesne 57  
 Loyola (Md.) 66, Bucknell 58  
 Loyola (Md.) 62, American U. 58  
 Northeastern 81, Hofstra 72  
 Philadelphia 75, Wilmington (Del.) 64  
 Saint Joseph's 66, Saint Joseph's 66  
 Susquehanna 100,oucher 97, 20T  
 UMBEC 58, New Hampshire 57  
 UMass 79, La Salle 67  
 West Virginia 91, Oklahoma 86, 20T  
**SOUTH**  
 Auburn 79, South Carolina 74  
 80, Bluefield 57, 86  
 Clayton 71, GRU Augusta 67  
 Dayton 84, George Mason 67  
 Florida 50, Virginia Tech 58  
 Gannon 59, Slippery Rock 56  
 High Point 77, Coastal Carolina 74  
 King 78, 66, Erskine 49  
 Lincoln-Rhyme 67, Coker 58  
 Lynchburg 86, Hampden-Sydney 84  
 Maryland 71, Tenn. 79, Covenant 49  
 North Carolina 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Montevallo 77, Georgia College 66  
 Missouri 66, Pfeiffer 65  
 Penn State 59, Miami 55  
 Quinn 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Queens (NC) 77, Catawba 67  
 Richmond 82, Charleston Southern 76  
 Randolph 71, Emory & Henry 62  
 Raleigh-Macon 76, Bridgewater (Va.) 56  
 Richmond 64, St. Bonaventure 62  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Tusculum 80, Anderson (SC) 73  
 Virginia 79, UNC Asheville 77  
 Union (Ky.) 101, Penn. (Ga.) 74  
 VMI 108, Longwood 104, 40T  
 Wake Forest 64, Tennessee 66  
 William 77, Boston College 66  
 50, St. Bonaventure 56  
 William & Mary 54, UNC Wilmington 50  
**MIDWEST**  
 Adrian at Trent 66  
 Akron 52, E. Michigan 48  
 Alabama at Albion, pdd.  
 Ball State 79, Ripon 75  
 Central Michigan 78, Kent St. 73  
 Cleveland State 66, Aquinas 66  
 Davenport 60, Michigan-Dearborn 39  
 E. Monmouth 85, Va. Wesleyan 82, 0T  
 Eastern Bay St. Ill., Chicago 50  
 Gustavus 64, Macalester 54  
 Indiana 62, Duquesne 54  
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 Northeastern 81, Hofstra 72  
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 Lynchburg 86, Hampden-Sydney 84  
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 Indiana 62, Duquesne 54  
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 Milwaukee 66, Wisconsin 77, Marian (W.) 66  
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 Belmont 68, Cleveland 58  
 W. Michigan 90, Ohio 74  
 Wichita 55, Indiana 58  
 Butler 8

## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

## Crimson Tide rule signing day — again

Southern Cal gets impressive haul in Sarkisian's first recruiting class

BY RALPH D. RUSSO  
The Associated Press

On signing day, Alabama is still No. 1.

A season without a national championship on the field didn't slow down coach Nick Saban on the recruiting trail. The five-star prospects flocked to Tuscaloosa, including one who went to high school at Auburn.

National signing day had coaches up at the crack of dawn and fax machines beeping on college campuses around the country — though more and more recruits email their national letter of intent these days.

Hats were donned, a few commitments were flipped and mostly the rich got richer: National champion Florida State, Ohio State, Stanford, Oklahoma and Notre Dame were among the programs that received high marks.

And as usual, most of the Southeastern Conference got glittering grades from the experts. None better than Alabama. The Crimson Tide sat atop the rankings for Rivals, Scout, 247sports and ESPN.

Alabama signed six of 33 players given five-star ratings by Rivals, including Rashaan Evans, a linebacker from Auburn High School who didn't decide to roll with the Tide until Wednesday, passing on joining his hometown Tigers.

No other school had more than three five-stars.

"He kind of lapped the field," Tom Lemming of CBS Sports Network said about Saban.

This marks the third straight year and fifth time in the last six years Alabama has Rivals' top-ranked class.

Ultimately, the strength of the class will be determined in

a few years. Good luck topping the 2009 Alabama class with AJ McCarron, Trent Richardson, Eddie Lacy, D.J. Fluker and Dre Kirkpatrick.

But when it comes to signing day grades, is Alabama's latest class Saban's best yet?

"Yes," said Mike Farrell, national recruiting analyst for Rivals.com. "They're competing against themselves, oftentimes."

"This is the highest point total we have ever had at Rivals. They broke the record last year and this year, they broke it again."

Other news and notes from signing day:

#### Sark attack

Southern California's first signing day with Steve Sarkisian as coach could not have gone much better. Three of the highest-rated players that entered the day undecided picked the Trojans, starting with 360-pound offensive lineman Damien Mama from Bellflower, Calif.

Next up was Adoree' Jackson from Gardena, Calif. The five-star cornerback put his own spin on the pick-a-hat announcement ceremony by digging through a shopping bag for his choice. He pulled out a sports drink, a sneaker, some other stuff, before slapping on a USC hat. The theatrics fell a bit flat, but no doubt Trojans coaches and fans were entertained in the end.

"Growing up as a little kid, my favorite player was Reggie Bush," Jackson said.

Jackson was also considering UCLA, LSU and Florida.

"Adoree' was the big surprise," Farrell said. "We had no idea what that kid was going to do."

Finally, it was John Smith, better known as Juju, from Long



BUTCH DILL/AP

Rashaan Evans chooses Alabama as his commitment to play NCAA college football during national signing day on Wednesday in Auburn, Ala. Evans spurned hometown Auburn to side with the Tide.

Beach, Calif., picking USC over Oregon, Notre Dame and UCLA.

"Fight on, dude," Smith said. The strong finish had USC ranked 10th in the nation by Rivals and Scout.

#### Momma drama

Malik McDowell wants to go to Michigan State. The five-star defensive end said so Wednesday morning during a news conference at Southfield (Mich.) High School.

His father, who has said publicly he would rather have his son leave Michigan and go to Ohio State or Florida State, is now on board with that decision.

McDowell's mother, Joya

Crowe, wasn't at the announcement. She has said she had a bad experience at Michigan State and wants her son to go elsewhere. Michigan was also in the mix for McDowell. Crowe's signature is not required on the letter of intent.

"Dad's willing to sign but they want mom on board," Farrell said.

Michigan State's official list of signees released Wednesday afternoon did not have McDowell's name on it.

#### Odds and ends

New Penn State coach James Franklin ended up signing a top-25 class that included five

players who had been committed to Vanderbilt when Franklin was there. ... Franklin's departure crushed Vanderbilt's class, though new Commodores coach Derek Mason did manage to lure one stud recruit, defensive end Nifae Lealao from Sacramento, Calif., away from his old school, Stanford. ... Charlie Strong's first recruiting class was not quite up to the usual Texas top-10 standards. More like top-20. Strong's ties to SEC country, which the Longhorns hope will extend their reach in the near future, did help land defensive tackle Poona Ford from Hilton Head, S.C. Meanwhile, Texas A&M's class drew consensus top-10 grades.

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## SPORTS BRIEFS/NHL

## Briefly

## Schilling readies for cancer battle

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Former pitcher Curt Schilling announced Wednesday that he is battling cancer.

The 47-year-old Schilling divulged the news in a statement released through his employer, Bristol-based ESPN. It did not indicate what type of cancer Schilling has, when he was diagnosed or what his prognosis might be.

"With my incredibly talented medical team I'm ready to try and win another big game," said Schilling, who retired in 2009 after 20 years in the major leagues.

"I've been so very blessed and I feel grateful for what God has allowed my family to have and experience, and I'll embrace this fight just like the rest of them, with resolute faith and head on."

ESPN spokesman Mike Soltys said Schilling is taking a leave of absence. He recently signed a multiyear contract extension with the network and was to be part of the "Sunday Night Baseball" broadcast team, as well as contribute to the network's studio coverage, including its spring training coverage, Soltys said.

"Our thoughts are with Curt and his family during this challenging time," the Bristol-based network said in a statement. "His ESPN teammates wish him continued strength in his cancer fight and we look forward to welcoming him back to our baseball coverage whenever he's ready."

Schilling played for five teams during his Major League career. He won three world championships, with the Arizona Diamondbacks (2001) and Boston Red Sox (2004, 2007), sharing the World Series MVP award with teammate Randy Johnson in 2001.

This is not the first time he and his family have battled health issues. Schilling recently revealed he suffered a heart attack in November 2011. His wife, Shonda, successfully battled melanoma in 2001.

in other baseball news:

■ Former Phillies manager Charlie Manuel, the winningest manager in team history will be honored with a plaque on the team's Wall of Fame on Aug. 9 before Philadelphia plays the New York Mets. Manuel will become the 36th member of the club.

■ The Texas Rangers reached a 10-year deal Wednesday to immediately change the name of their 20-year-old stadium to Globe Life Park in Arlington.

■ Logan Morrison and the Seattle Mariners have reached agreement on a \$1.75 million contract for the 2014 season and avoided arbitration.

## Army women's hoops team in bus accident

Army coach Dave Magarity knows his team was lucky.

None of the Black Knights were seriously hurt when their bus was rear-ended by a tractor-trailer on the way back to their hotel before a game against Lehigh in Bethlehem, Pa., on Wednesday.

"We were really fortunate," Magarity said Wednesday. "I think I got the worst of it. Our driver was being really cautious with the weather being as bad as it was with the snow."

The entire traveling party for the women's basketball team was taken to area hospitals as a precaution and everyone was released by late afternoon.

## IndyCar's Rahal gets Guard as sponsor

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing has won the battle with Panther Racing for the Army National Guard sponsorship for the upcoming IndyCar season. The National Guard will be Graham Rahal's primary sponsor on the No. 15 Honda.

The Rahal organization submitted a winning proposal for the National Guard sponsorship last fall, but Panther Racing appealed to keep the contract it has held since 2008. All military sponsorships are reviewed annually.

## Seattle comes alive as crowd cheers Seahawks

SEATTLE — Amid the 700,000 fans who jammed downtown Seattle to celebrate the city's first Super Bowl win stood Mark Forman, 57-year-old man in a Seahawks jersey and a camouflage jacket, weeping in the parking lot outside the team's stadium.

Bundled in blue-and-green Seahawks gear — hats, shirts, jackets, stickers and wigs — in the fans packed the sidewalks and streets along a 2-mile parade route, freezing shoulder to shoulder on a freezing, clear day for a community catharsis after 35 years without a major sports title.

They roared and cheered as the team rolled by on amphibious "Ride the Ducks" vehicles usually reserved for tourists. Running back Marshawn Lynch sat on the hood of a vehicle carrying the Sea Gals cheerleaders. He tossed Skittles — his favorite treat — into the crowd.

■ In other NFL news: ■ A person familiar with his decision tells The Associated Press that Vikings quarterback Matt Cassel will void the 2014 option on his contract and test the open market.

■ CBS won bidding among broadcast networks to televise eight Thursday night NFL games next fall, and perhaps beyond that. The NFL said Wednesday that CBS and its broadcast partner of Jim Nantz and Phil Simms will be in the booth for eight early-season Thursday night games simulcast on the NFL Network.

## NHL scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

	Atlantic Division				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Boston	55	36	16	3	82
Tampa Bay	56	32	19	5	69
Montreal	57	29	21	6	66
Toronto	58	30	22	6	66
Detroit	56	25	19	12	62
Ottawa	57	25	21	11	61
Florida	56	22	27	7	51
Buffalo	55	23	23	10	58

	Metropolitan Division				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Pittsburgh	57	40	15	2	82
N.Y. Rangers	57	31	23	3	65
Columbus	56	29	23	4	62
Philadelphia	57	28	23	6	62
Carolina	55	25	21	9	59
New Jersey	57	23	21	13	59
Washington	57	25	23	9	58
N.Y. Islanders	56	22	28	6	52

## Western Conference

	Central Division				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Chicago	55	37	12	6	80
St. Louis	55	37	12	6	80
Colorado	56	36	15	5	79
Minnesota	58	30	21	7	67
Dallas	57	26	21	10	62
Winnipeg	58	28	25	5	61
Nashville	57	25	23	9	59

	Pacific Division				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Anaheim	59	40	14	5	85
San Jose	58	36	16	6	78
Los Angeles	58	30	22	6	66
Vancouver	58	27	22	9	63
Calgary	56	36	15	5	77
Edmonton	58	21	28	7	49
Seattle	58	19	33	6	44

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

	Tuesday's Games				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Ottawa 5, St. Louis 4, SO					
Boston 3, Vancouver 1					
N.Y. Rangers 5, Colorado 1					
Winnipeg 2, Carolina 1					
Montreal 2, Calgary 0					
Florida 4, Toronto 1					
N.Y. Islanders 1, Washington 0					
Minnesota 2, Tampa Bay 1					
Dallas 3, Phoenix 1					

	Wednesday's Games				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Chicago 2, Anaheim 0					
San Jose 2, Dallas 1, OT					
Thursday's Games					
N.Y. Islanders 1, Washington 0					
Edmonton 4, N.Y. Rangers 1					
Calgary 4, Philadelphia 1					
Winnipeg 4, Washington 1					
Vancouver 4, Montreal 3					
Colorado 4, Ottawa 1					
Toronto 4, Tampa Bay 1					
St. Louis 4, Boston 1					
Nashville 4, Minnesota 1					
Friday's Games					
Dallas 4, Carolina 1					
N.Y. Rangers 4, Pittsburgh 1					
Chicago 4, Phoenix 1					
Columbus 4, San Jose 2					

## Penguins 5, Sabres 1

	Period 1				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
Pittsburgh	55	36	16	3	82
Buffalo	55	30	21	4	65
Period 1					
1st	15	8	7	0	16
2nd	15	8	7	0	16
3rd	15	8	7	0	16
OT	1	0	1	0	0

	Period 2				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
1st	15	8	7	0	16
2nd	15	8	7	0	16
3rd	15	8	7	0	16
OT	1	0	1	0	0

	Period 3				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
1st	15	8	7	0	16
2nd	15	8	7	0	16
3rd	15	8	7	0	16
OT	1	0	1	0	0

	Period 4				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
1st	15	8	7	0	16
2nd	15	8	7	0	16
3rd	15	8	7	0	16
OT	1	0	1	0	0

	Period 5				
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts
1st	15	8	7	0	16
2nd	15	8	7	0	16
3rd	15	8	7	0	16
OT	1	0	1	0	0

A-17.562 (17,562), T-2.39.



REE Saxon/AP

Chicago Blackhawks goalie Corey Crawford defends the goal as Anaheim Ducks center Andrew Cogliano attacks in the first period of Wednesday's game in Anaheim, Calif. Chicago won, 2-0.

## NHL roundup

## Crawford, Blackhawks move closer to Ducks

Chicago a point from league-best Anaheim

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Chicago and Anaheim had the NHL's two best records and a combined 15 Olympians on the ice at Honda Center.

Before all that world-class talent heads to Sochi this weekend, the Blackhawks demonstrated why they're still the team to beat when the NHL gets back to work in three short weeks.

Corey Crawford made 29 saves in his first shutout of the season and Chicago pulled within one point of Anaheim for the overall NHL lead with a 2-0 victory over the Ducks on Wednesday night.

Marian Hossa scored in the second period and captain Jonathan Toews added a late goal for the defending Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks, who improved to 3-0-2 on their six-game trip before the Olympic break.

Chicago followed up its victory in Los Angeles two days ago with another solid effort against the Ducks, suggesting the defending champs are hitting their stride right before Sochi.

"The last handful of games on this trip, we've got back to the way we need to play," Toews said. "That's a tough team to do that to, and we have to feel good about what we were able to accomplish."

After keeping the Ducks off the scoreboard in a fast, well-played game, the Blackhawks also won the Western Conference powers' season series, taking two of three from Anaheim. Chicago (35-10-14, 84 points) is right behind Anaheim (40-14-5, 85 points) with one game left before the break.

"(Crawford) made some key saves, and we had some breaks and some fortunate bounces," Chicago coach Joel Quenneville said. "(Anaheim) had that run there, 19 of 20 (wins), but I think this trip really put us in a spot where we're back in the mix. We

played the right way, and we're getting some good points."

Quenneville also announced Patrick Kane won't be with the Blackhawks when they wrap up their trip in Phoenix. The American Olympian's grandfather, Donald, died two days ago, and Kane is going back home to Buffalo before heading to Sochi.

Jonas Hiller stopped 23 shots for the Ducks, who have lost four of five. Anaheim also has lost three straight home games after starting the season 20-0-2 at Honda Center.

"We will overcome this," Anaheim coach Bruce Boudreau said. "I thought we put in a great effort. We just didn't score goals. We're not going to cry about it. We're just going to get back to work and put another big run together."

**Penguins 5, Sabres 1:** Sidney Crosby scored a highlight-reel goal and added an assist, leading Pittsburgh over host Buffalo.

Eveni Malkin, James Neal, Brian Gibbons and minor-league call-up Harry Zolnierczyk also scored for Eastern Conference-leading Pittsburgh. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 24 shots and the Penguins (40-15-2) set a franchise record by reaching 40 wins in 57 games. That eclipsed the mark of 40 wins in 65 games in 1995-96.

Drew Stafford scored for the NHL's worst team, and Ryan Miller finished with 29 saves. Buffalo (15-33-8) dropped to 4-9-4 in its past 17 and is winless in its last eight home games (0-5-3).

**Sharks 2, Stars 1 (OT):** Tommy Hovatta scored with 3:08 remaining in overtime to lead host San Jose over Dallas for its second win in six games.

Marty Havlat scored in regulation and set up the game-winner in overtime to give the struggling Sharks a much-needed boost with just one game left before the Olympic break. Alex Stalock made 19 saves.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Roundup

## Shockers top Indiana St. to stay unbeaten

The Associated Press

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — Wichita State coach Gregg Marshall looked at the scoreboard with 85 seconds left Wednesday night, saw the two-point lead and challenged his players to do one thing.

Keep Indiana State scoreless.

The fourth-ranked Shockers heeded their coach's advice, outscored the Sycamores 7-2 over the final 2:01 and hung on for a 65-58 victory that kept them unbeaten.

"At one point, Coach said, 'If they don't score again, we win,'" guard Ron Baker said, referring to the discussion during a timeout. "So our focus was on rebounding and defense the rest of the way."

That's always been a primary focus for Marshall's team, and it's a big reason the Shockers (24-0, 11-0 Missouri Valley) extended their school record winning streak, are 11-0 in conference play for the first time in school history and are the first Missouri Valley Conference team to open a season with 24 consecutive wins since Indiana State and Larry Bird went 33-0 in 1978-79.

There's another reason these Shockers and No. 2 Syracuse (22-0) are the only unbeaten teams in major college basketball.

Wichita State is just plain tough.

Players and coaches refused to let their weather delayed arrival in Terre Haute make them sluggish.

They refused to give in to a boisterous crowd that intended to do everything it could to help the Sycamores protect their home court and Bird's legacy as the Valley's last perfect team to reach postseason play without a loss.

They ignored the unusually packed student section that was so eager to get into the game they were lining up more than two hours before tip-off in chilly temperatures and about 6 inches of new snow cover. They were not deterred by an 8-for-23 shooting effort in the second half or the fact that they were outrebounded for one of the few times this season.

Instead, the Shockers just went back to the basics.

"We won it with defense in the second half," Marshall said. "We didn't shoot the ball nearly as well in the second half as we did the first. But in the second half, it was all about rebounding and defense."



AJ Mast/AP

Wichita State guard Ron Baker, right, shoots over Indiana State's Lucas Eitel during the first half Wednesday in Terre Haute, Ind.

The Shockers were led by CleAnthony Early, who scored 15 of his 19 points in the second half, and Tekele Cotton with 14 points. Chadcrack Lufille finished with eight points and 10 rebounds.

On this night, against the reved up Sycamores, it was barely good enough.

**No. 5 San Diego State 67, Boise St. 65:** Dwayne Pole II hit a three-pointer with 4 seconds left as visiting San Diego State rallied from a 14-point deficit to extend its winning streak to 19 games.

Xavier Thames scored 23 points for the Aztecs (20-1, 9-0 Mountain West), who have won eight of nine meetings with the Broncos (15-8, 5-5). San Diego State eliminated Boise State from the past two conference tournaments and beat the Broncos 69-66 earlier this season.

**No. 10 Michigan 77, Nebraska 50:** Freshman Zak Irvin scored all 16 of his points in the first half for host Michigan.

The Wolverines (17-5, 9-1 Big Ten) were coming off their first conference defeat, a 63-52 loss at Indiana on Sunday. They nearly matched that scoring total with a 49-point first half against the Cornhuskers (11-10, 3-6).

Glenn Robinson III led Michigan with 23 points, and Caris

LeVert added 16 points with five assists and seven rebounds. Nick Stauskas had nine points, eight assists and five rebounds.

**No. 13 Saint Louis 65, Saint Joseph's 49:** Rob Loe scored 17 points and Jordair Jett had 10 points and seven assists to help visiting Saint Louis to a team-record 15th straight victory.

The Billikens (21-2, 8-0 Atlantic 10) topped 14-game winning streaks set in the 1958-59 and 1993-94 seasons.

The Billikens, who needed overtime to beat George Mason on Saturday, extended their best start in team history and are 8-0 on the road. Saint Louis last lost Dec. 1 to Wichita State, 70-65.

**No. 14 Louisville 77, Houston 62:** Russ Smith scored 17 points, Luke Hancock added 15 points, including hitting eight of nine free throws, while Montrezl Harrell also had 15 for Louisville.

The visiting Cardinals (19-4, 8-2 American Athletic Conference) shot just under 70 percent from the field in the first half, including 6 of 10 from behind the arc in building a 19-point halftime lead. Louisville finished the game shooting 56 percent.

**No. 20 Virginia 77, Boston College 67:** Malcolm Brogdon

had 17 points, a career-best 11 rebounds and seven assists and Virginia won its sixth straight.

Anthony Gill and Justin Anderson added 13 points each for the host Cavaliers (18-5, 9-1 Atlantic Coast Conference). Virginia led 40-21 at halftime and never let its margin dip below 13 until the final minutes, when the Eagles scored 12 straight to get within 71-64 before Brogdon clinched it at the free throw line.

**West Virginia 91, No. 21 Oklahoma 86 (OT):** Eron Harris scored 26 of his 28 points after halftime for host West Virginia. Juwan Staten added 20 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for the Mountaineers (14-9, 6-4 Big 12), who won their third straight. Terry Henderson scored 17 points.

**No. 23 Gonzaga 71, Portland 65:** David Stockton, Angel Nunez and Kevin Pangos all scored 13 points as host Gonzaga avenged a January loss to Portland.

Sam Dower Jr. added 10 points for Gonzaga (21-3, 11-1 West Coast), which has a three-game lead over BYU and San Francisco in the conference and is seeking its 15th regular season title in the past 17 years.

**No. 25 Pittsburgh 59, Miami 55 (OT):** Lamar Patterson scored 10 of his 25 points in overtime as visiting Pittsburgh ended a two-game losing streak.

Cameron Wright added 12 points and Talib Zanna had 10 for Pittsburgh (19-4, 7-3 Atlantic Coast Conference).

**Army 70, Lehigh 51:** Tanner Plomb scored 27 points and made 5 of 6 from three-point range for host Army.

Plomb also had six rebounds and Kevin Ferguson chipped in nine points and nine rebounds. The victory kept Army (12-10, 8-3 Patriot League) a game behind Boston U. in conference play, and moved the Black Knights within two games of first place American U.

**Boston University 61, Navy 48:** Maurice Watson Jr. scored nine points and dished out eight assists to lead visiting Boston University.

D.J. Irving contributed 12 points and John Papale had 10 for Boston U. (16-8, 9-2), which got its first in-season sweep of a Patriot League opponent with the win.

Navy (7-15, 2-9) twice closed to within five in the second half but was held to a single field goal over the final 3½ minutes.

**Fresno State 68, Air Force 51:** Tyler Johnson scored 20 points and Cesar Guerrero added 18 as Fresno State took advantage of several scoring runs to beat host Air Force.

Johnson knocked down four three-pointers to lead the Bulldogs and Marvella Harris added 12 points.

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## Scoreboard



## Roundup

# Spurs need 2 OTs to subdue Wizards

**Heat 116, Clippers 112:** LeBron James had 31 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds. Ray Allen hit

**Magic 112, Pistons 98:** Rookie Victor Oladipo came off the bench to score 20 points and Glen Davis had 18 to help host Orlando beat Detroit.

58 (Cousins, Gay, Thompson 10). Assists—Toronto 25 (Lowry 8), Sacramento 15 (Thomas 5). Total Fouls—Toronto 35, Sacramento 23. Technicals—DeRozan 1, Lowry 2, Gay, Thomas. Ejected—Lowry 1. A=17 317 (17 317).

ts 1-3, Gordon 1-5). Fouled Out—None.  
Rebounds—Atlanta 47 (Millsap 10), New  
Orleans 51 (Davis 10). Assists—Atlanta  
(Teague 13), New Orleans 18 (Roberts  
10). Total Fouls—Atlanta 16, New Orleans  
15 (A-16 232 (17 188))

James 8), L.A. Clippers 66 (Jordan 16). Assists—Miami 33 (James 12), L.A. Clippers (Collison 9). Total Fouls—Miami 32, L.A. Clippers 24. Technicals—James, L.A. Clippers Coach Rivers. Flagrant Fouls—James, A—19 672 (19 060).

## OLYMPICS

## Scoreboard

## Snowboard

## Thursday

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia  
Men's Slopestyle Qualifying  
Final Ranking

1. Maxence Parrot, Canada, (91.75; 97.50) 97.50 (QF).
2. Ståle Sandbeck, Norway, (45.25; 94.50) 94.50 (QF).
2. Roope Tonteri, Finland, (33.75; 95.75) 95.75 (QF).
4. Petteri Piironen, Finland, (90.75; 80.00) 80.75 (QF).
5. Sven Thorgren, Sweden, (94.25; 36.75) 94.25 (QF).
6. Sébastien Toutant, Canada, (74.25; 87.25) 87.25 (QF).
7. Gjerndt Braaten, Norway, (12.75; 91.25) 91.25 (QF).
8. Jamie Nicholls, Britain, (62.25; 86.75) 86.75 (QF).
9. Seppie Smits, Belgium, (88.25; 91.00) 91.00 (QS).
10. Chas Guldendorn, United States, (86.00; 19.25) 86.00 (QS).
11. Clemens Schatschneider, Austria, (90.00; 24.25) 85.00 (QS).
12. Billy Morgan, Britain, (76.25; 85.50) 85.50 (QS).
13. Mark McMorris, Canada, (29.50; 89.25) 89.25 (QS).
14. Niklas Mattsson, Sweden, (82.75; 57.25) 82.75 (QS).
15. Sage Kotsenburg, United States, (86.50; 81.50) 86.50 (QS).
16. Emil Andre Ulsellet, Norway, (27.25; 73.75) 73.75 (QS).
17. Ryan Stassel, United States, (81.00; 28.75) 81.00 (QS).
18. Charles Reid, Canada, (54.50; 75.50) 75.50 (QS).
19. Jan Scherrer, Switzerland, (74.50; 18.75) 74.50 (QS).
20. Alexey Sobolev, Russia, (63.00; 28.50) 63.00 (QS).
21. Ville Rauma, Finland, (54.75; 21.25) 54.75 (QS).
22. Scotty James, Australia, (36.00; 44.00) 44.00 (QS).
23. Janne Korpi, Finland, (49.75; 35.50) 49.75 (QS).
24. Lucien Koch, Switzerland, (32.00; 29.25) 32.00 (QS).
25. Seamus O'Connor, Ireland, (33.50; 40.00) 40.00 (QS).
26. Yuki Kadono, Japan, (31.00; 16.50) 31.00 (QS).

Women's Slopestyle Qualifying  
Final Ranking

1. Anna Gasser, Austria, (89.50; 95.50) 95.50 (QF).
2. Isabel Derungs, Switzerland, (82.50; 87.50) 87.50 (QF).
3. Jamie Anderson, United States, (85.50; 82.50) 85.50 (QF).
4. Torah Bright, Australia, (85.25; 80.00) 85.25 (QF).
5. Keri Padden, United States, (86.25; 38.00) 86.25 (QF).
6. Kelly Clark, U.S. Brien, Canada, (82.00; 80.00) 82.00 (QF).
7. Kelly Clark, U.S. Brien, Canada, (45.00; 84.75) 84.75 (QF).
8. Jenni Rukajärvi, Finland, (79.00; 23.75) 79.00 (QF).
9. Sárka Pančochová, Czech Republic, (77.25; 13.75) 77.25 (QF).
10. Jenny Jones, Britain, (74.25; 21.75) 74.25 (QF).
11. Rebecca Torr, New Zealand, (70.75; 33.75) 70.75 (QF).
12. Jenna Bassman, Canada, (60.25; 51.50) 60.25 (QF).
13. Kristy Plume, New Zealand, (67.50; 70.50) 70.50 (QS).
14. Jessica Jonson, United States, (34.00; 58.50) 58.50 (QS).
15. Steffi Luxton, New Zealand, (59.75; 34.00) 59.75 (QS).
16. Silje Nordal, Norway, (31.00; 39.00) 39.00 (QS).
17. Sanna Candrian, Switzerland, (58.25; 30.00) 58.25 (QS).
18. Cheryl Maas, Netherlands, (18.00; 31.25) 31.25 (QS).
19. Matthew Fuller, Britain, (44.50; 39.00) 44.50 (QS).
20. Merika Enne, Finland, (17.00) 17.00 (QS).

## Figure skating

## Thursday

## At Sochi, Russia

## Team Event

1. Yuzuru Hanyu, Japan, 97.58.
2. Evgeny Plushenko, Russia, 91.39.
3. Patrick Chan, Canada, 89.71.
4. Yan Han, China, 85.52.
5. Florent Amodio, France, 79.93.
6. Petr Benda, Germany, 76.61.
7. Jeremy Abbott, United States, 65.65.
8. Yakov Gudzorzh, Ukraine, 60.51.
9. Matthew Parr, Britain, 57.40.
10. Paul Bonifacio Parkinson, United States, 55.65.

## Pairs Short Program

1. Tatiana Volosozhar and Maxim Trankov, Russia, 83.79.
2. Meaghan Duhamel and Eric Radford, Canada, 82.40.
3. Peng Cheng and Zhang Hao, China, 71.00.
4. Stefania Bertoni and Ondrej Hotarek, Italy, 70.31.
5. Marissa Castelli and Simon Sinapov, United States, 64.25.
6. Tatiana Khromova and Daniel Wendt, Germany, 60.82.
7. Tatiana Khromova and Morgan Ciprès, France, 57.45.
8. Natsuki Takahashi and Ryuichi Kihara, Japan, 46.56.
9. Julia Lavrenteva and Yuri Rudyk, Ukraine, 46.56.
10. Stacey Kemp and David King, Britain, 44.70.

## Snowboard

## Parrot tops slopestyle qualifying

By EDDIE PELL

The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — And to think, Shaun White chose not to ride down this course.

Snowboarders kicked off competition at the Olympics on Thursday by making the slopestyle layout that White deemed “intimidating” feel anything but that.

Sunny skies. No wind. Decent snow. All in all, slopestyle's debut on the grand stage was a great day for riding rails and grabbing big air and an even better day for scores.

Canadian Max Parrot backed up his win last month at the Winter X Games with a 97.5 — 2½ points short of perfect — in a qualifying run punctuated by a triple-flipping jump with a dead-solid landing, the likes of which will be virtually mandatory to win the gold medal.

He was one of eight riders to reach the 90s on a day in which Australia's Scotty James and Norway's Kjersti Buasa took the worst falls, but both walked away.

“Other riders complained about the course this week. I actually found it really good from Day One to now,” Parrot said.

White pulled out Wednesday, saying he wanted to focus on winning a third straight gold medal in the halfpipe next week. He was in no mind to put his health at risk on a course that took out one of the world's top riders, Torstein Horgmo of Norway, and sent dozens more tumbling in training.

Things still weren't 100 percent ideal when competition began, one day before the opening ceremony.

“It's getting better. Not fully perfect yet. Pretty icy. Makes it hard to shape the jumps clean,” said Norway's Ståle Sandbeck, who scored 94.5.

Leading female contender, leading Jamie Anderson, had



SERGEI GENTS/AP

Canada's Maxence Parrot takes a jump Thursday during the men's snowboard slopestyle qualifying at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park ahead of the Winter Olympics in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

no problem the day after banging up her back in practice. She called the course conditions “questionable,” especially for the women.

“It's a challenging course. A lot of impact for everyone,” Anderson said after a 93.5. “Little 15 year olds are, like, ‘I'm not even old and my back is still sore every day. Not even from crashing, just from riding.’”

It made White's absence that much more confounding to several of the 29 men left in the field, who complained that, among other things, his last-minute decision cost someone a spot on the U.S. team.

“It would've been so awesome to have him in here today,” American Sage Kotsenburg said. “He

could've put down a super sick run that could contend. But it's his choice.”

Nobody is feeling White's absence more than Parrot, who is peaking at precisely the right time.

“I'm just mad about it because I want to compete against him,” Parrot said. “I want to know who's better.”

The improved conditions invited such high scores that at least one rider felt free to turn his attention to a more traditional sort of griping: Judging.

Canada's Mark McMorris, a favorite for the gold until he broke a rib at the X Games, landed a triple cork and put down a clean run that ended with him grabbing

his sore back. He received only an 89.25.

But, in keeping with the sunny theme of the first Olympic sport to feature a gigantic Russian matryoshka doll in the middle of the course (And yes, riders can feel free to jump over it) McMorris will get a second chance. In fact, everybody will.

Conceding that it's had form to end anyone's Olympics before they march in the opening ceremony, the format was tweaked slightly. The top four riders in each heat advanced directly to the weekend finals, with everyone else getting another shot to qualify during semifinals.

Friday is an off day where more work on the course is expected.

## A few things to watch once the games begin



## Opening Ceremony

AFN-Sports

1:30 a.m. Saturday CET

9:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

there really is a mountain in Jamaica. Blue Mountain Peak rises to 7,402 feet” — will brighten the TV coverage.

Then, on Saturday, it's finally “go” time. (Except for the few dozen athletes who actually competed Thursday in a handful of events that started early due to a jam-packed schedule.)

Here are a few things to watch as the action gets going in earnest:

**Team skating:** Can he or can't he? Russian skating icon Evgeni Plushenko won a spot for a newly added event, team figure skating. It was based upon a performance seen by nobody outside of the country's top skating officials. Dealing with back problems, Plushenko has hardly been seen

in actual competition over the past year. The skater who has already won Olympic gold and two silvers is hoping to add another to his collection in an event designed to bring a sense of camaraderie to a sport that has always been about individual performances. The men's team long program is Sunday.

**Seeing double, and triple:** On the halfpipe, the Americans have the aptly named brother-sister team of Taylor and Arielle Gold. They compete next Tuesday and Wednesday. Meanwhile, Canada's moguls team does them one better with three sisters from the Dufour-Lapointe family — Justine, Chloe and Maxime. Expect at least two of them to advance to the women's finals on Saturday.

## OLYMPICS

# Moguls course a work in progress

## Slopestyle isn't the only event with problems at Extreme Park

By WILL GRAVES  
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — The ambitious slopestyle course that sent Shaun White sprinting for the serenity and apparent safety of the halfpipe isn't the only Olympic event at Sochi's Extreme Park turning heads and sending riders tumbling down the mountain.

Things have been nearly as dicey in moguls. The U.S. was among several countries to unsuccessfully ask officials Wednesday to tweak the course, expressing concerns about unusual sequencing along the 700-foot sprint across bumps and jumps that make for a unique mixture of daredevil downhill racing and aerials.

"There's a lot of issues with the course," American Patrick Denen said.

Denen, however, cautioned against confusing "issues" with "danger."

"Everybody is scrambling a little bit," he said. "This isn't what anybody expected, but it's really good. We're really liking it. They made a few mistakes while they were building the course and we're fighting those ... but they also did some pretty cool things."

Still, Denen admitted it was a "battle" when the U.S. team arrived for its first practice earlier this week. The course had barely been completed when the Americans popped on their skis and went careening down the hill at speeds of up to 35 mph.

Things didn't go so well. During practice Tuesday, the 26-year-old Denen caught an edge entering the second of the course's two jumps and slammed into it.

Denen underwent X-rays for an unspecified injury and plans to be ready when the men's competition begins next week. There's a chance by then the course's rough edges will have been smoothed out.

There's not that much time for the women, who begin qualifying Thursday. American Heidi Kloser, making her Olympic debut, called the course "challenging," but pointed at improvements during three days of training.

"The course is pretty safe now," she said. "The first day it was a little bit rough because no one had skied it and we were worried about the bottom of the course being more dangerous."

She's no longer concerned about the final moments of her run being any more perilous than any other event on the World Cup circuit. She fell on Tuesday, but chalked that up to the inherent risk that comes with flinging yourself over dozens of balance-testing bumps and two jumps,

where skiers mix a combination of spins and flips.

Denen and Kloser echoed the sentiments of snowboard riders who are questioning whether the slopestyle course — located about a half-mile down the mountain from the moguls run — pushes the boundaries of safety a little too far.

Several riders expressed surprise over the size and the speed of the slopestyle route, which includes a mixture of rails and big-time jumps designed to allow competitors enough air time to pack in two or three flips.

Denen sees both sides of the argument. Yes, it's different than what he's used to. He's not entirely sure that's a bad thing.

"This is a moguls skiing competition," he said, "so it's good to have some crazy moguls in there."



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN HAYWARD, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

At top, Canada's moguls skier Mikael Kingsbury flies over a jump during a freestyle skiing training run in Krasnaya Polyna, Russia, on Wednesday. At bottom, athletes take part in a moguls course inspection prior to training. Many of the same problems that have beset the Slopestyle course in Sochi and led to American snowboarder Shaun White to withdraw from that event are causing concern for moguls skiers, who wonder if the course might push the boundaries of safety too far.

## OLYMPICS

## ALPINE PREVIEW

# Shiffrin could shine at Sochi

BY HOWARD FENDRICH  
The Associated Press

**B**efore the races start, the biggest storyline in Alpine skiing at the Sochi Olympics centers around someone who will not be there: Lindsey Vonn, the reigning downhill gold medalist and a four-time overall World Cup champion.

If not for her surgically repaired right knee, Vonn would have been the one to watch, not only on the slopes — where she might have been expected to at least match her two-medal showing from Vancouver in 2010 — but also off them, in part because of her boyfriend, Tiger Woods.

“We want to grow as a sport, and like every other sport, we are dependent on the international stars,” said Atle Skaardal, the International Ski Federation women’s race director. “And Lindsey Vonn is definitely an international star.”

Her injury-forced absence means there will be room for other ski racers to earn victories, grab attention and have their stories told. In some respects, the 10 events in the mountains — starting with the men’s downhill on Sunday, weather permitting — turn into a referendum on the next possible face of the sport.

On the women’s side, Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany, Lara Gut of Switzerland, Tina Maze of Slovenia, Tina Weirather of Liechtenstein, and 18-year-old Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States have the potential to win more than one medal.

Among the men, Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway, Marcel Hirscher of Austria, and Ted Ligety of the United States probably are the likeliest to exit these Winter Games as household names around the globe.

Here are five Alpine skiing storylines to follow during the Sochi Olympics.

**1 “The next Vonn”:** Already given that label by some, Shiffrin might be a bigger favorite in the slalom than any other woman is in any other event. She owns a World Cup title and world championship gold in slalom.

“Mikaela is very, very success-oriented in her approach. It really reminds you of someone like Lindsey,” U.S. women’s Alpine coach Alex Hoedlmoser said. “She is training a lot. She puts everything aside. The focus is all on the sport.”

Still, Shiffrin leaves time for being a typical teen — well, one who travels the World Cup circuit with her mother — such as when she mashed up Lupe Fiasco’s “Battle Scars” and Coldplay’s “The Scientist,” then had that musical combo in her head while finishing a run in a giant slalom at home in Colorado.

As another American teen,



Mikaela Shiffrin of the U.S., an 18-year-old from Colorado who already has a World Cup title and world championship gold in slalom, will be one of the skiers to watch in these Lindsay Vonn-less Olympics.

swimmer Missy Franklin, made clear at the London Olympics, there’s something about success at a very young age that captivates an audience.

**2 Aksel’s rise:** Svindal already enjoys rock-star status in Europe, thanks to his pair of overall World Cup titles and his three medals at the Vancouver Games.

Even he’ll tell you he’s got a shot at medals in four of the five events this time: downhill, super-G, super-combined and giant slalom.

“I have really good chances in two events,” Svindal said, “and I have decent chances in the two other events.”

**3 Austria’s comeback:** Skiing is a big deal in Austria, which has won nearly twice as many Olympic Al-

pine medals as any other country, including 14 in 2006. But in 2010, Austria came away with only four medals — and zero for their men for the first time at an Olympics they entered.

Hirscher is expected to play a big part in rectifying that. He’s the two-time reigning overall World Cup champion and took gold in slalom and silver in giant slalom at last year’s world championships.

**4 Women to watch:** Hoefl-Riesch, not Vonn, was the only woman to leave Vancouver’s slopes with two golds, and the German is still as good as anyone out there. If Hoefl-Riesch doesn’t dominate, Maze (who broke the record for most World Cup points last season), Gut (who missed the 2010 Olympics with a dislocated hip) or

Weirather (whose mother, Hanni Wenzel, won two gold medals at the 1980 Lake Placid Games) could.

**5 American veterans:** The U.S. left Vancouver with eight Alpine medals, their best showing at an Olympics and twice as many as any other nation collected in 2010. That won’t be easy to replicate, especially without Vonn, but there are folks with plenty of experience and success on the team, including Ligety (an Olympic gold medalist in 2006, and three-time world champion in 2013), Bode Miller (owner of five Olympic medals, including three in 2010 — gold in super-combined, silver in super-G, bronze in downhill), and Julia Mancuso (one gold in 2006, two silvers in 2010).



Luke Steyn, Zimbabwe’s first Winter Olympian, will compete in the slalom and giant slalom.

## 5 things: Weather can wreak havoc

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**3 Top teens:** Mikaela Shiffrin’s name will surely become familiar to U.S. sports fans; the 18-year-old from Colorado is favored in slalom and carries the tag “The Next Lindsey Vonn” (Vonn is sidelined after knee surgery). Another teen who could earn a medal: Norway’s Henrik Kristoffersen, 19, who won the last pre-Sochi World Cup slalom on Jan. 28. It was his third top-three finish in a slalom during January.

**4 Solo artists:** Classical-pop violinist Vanessa-Mae’s manager has said she will represent Thailand on the Alpine slopes after meeting International Ski Federation qualifying criteria. The Singapore-born, London-raised musician competes as Vanessa Vanakorn, using her Thai father’s surname. Also worth watching: Zimbabwe’s first Winter Olympian, 20-year-old Luke Steyn, and Hubertus von Hohenlohe, a German prince who competes for Mexico, turned 55 on Sunday, and is at his sixth Olympics.

**5 Wacky weather:** Race after race was postponed four years ago at the Vancouver Games; this sport depends on acceptable weather. The last pre-Olympics World Cup weekend showed what can go wrong: Too much snow in St. Moritz, Switzerland, scuttled downhill training, and fog on Feb. 1 forced cancellation of what was supposed to be the last speed race for men before Sochi. As it is, that race was moved from Germany because of a lack of snow there. Women’s races moved from one Slovenian resort to another because of a lack of snow, but rain and fog prompted officials to cancel a giant slalom at the new site. There’s no rain or snow in the forecast this week at the Olympic mountain, and the temperature is expected to hover around freezing.

MARCO TROVATI/AP

## SPORTS

**Crimson Tide on top**Alabama is No. 1 on strong signing day for SEC | **Page 25****WINTER OLYMPICS**

**U.S. skier Bode Miller, a five-time Olympic medalist, enters the Sochi Games with some momentum: Miller finished in the top three in a World Cup downhill and super-G on Jan. 25-26.**

URS FLUEELER, KEYSTONE/AP

# Alpine skiing: 5 things to know

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
The Associated Press

To get a sense of which Alpine ski racers to keep an eye on during the Sochi Olympics, take a look at who is peaking at the right time.

One example: Exactly two weeks before the scheduled start of Olympic competition at the Krasnaya Polyana ski resort, Lara Gut of Switzerland won the last pre-Sochi women's World Cup speed race. Another: The day before Gut's super-G victory, Tina Maze of Slovenia won a downhill, her only first-place finish this season.

Bode Miller, the 36-year-old who grew up in New Hampshire and already owns five Olympic medals, turned in a pair of top-three finishes in a downhill and super-G on Jan. 25-26. His U.S. teammate, 2006 Turin gold medalist Ted Ligety of Park City, Utah, won a giant slalom by 1½ seconds on Feb. 2. "Hopefully," Ligety said, "I can carry that confidence over the next couple weeks."

With the first Winter Games race — the men's downhill — scheduled for Sunday, here are five things to know about Alpine skiing:

**1 Alpine primer:** There are speed (downhill, super-G) and technical (slalom, giant slalom) events, plus the super combined, which, as the name implies, combines times from runs of downhill and slalom. Downhill is one run, with the longest course and fastest speeds; men can reach 75 mph. Slalom is two runs — different courses for each — with the shortest length and quickest turns through at least 50 gates. Giant slalom, also known as GS, is also two runs, with fewer gates spaced farther apart. Super-G is one run that's sort of a hybrid of downhill and giant slalom; gates are spaced similarly to a giant slalom but with fewer turns and greater speed; it joined the Olympics in 1988.

**2 Sloppy skiing?:** Truth is, as U.S. women's Alpine coach Alex Hoedlmoser points out, even the most talented athletes can flop on their sport's most important days, so the skiing in Sochi might not always be of the highest quality. "A lot of people freeze up at big events. It just, like, freaks them out," he says. "In training, we see a lot better skiing a lot of times than we do on the actual race day."

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